Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat Gives New Year Address

LD3112192290 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1718 GMT 31 Dec 90

["Annual message" by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat "to the masses of the Palestinian people inside and outside Palestine, and the masses of our Arab and Islamic nation on the 26th anniversary of the outbreak of the Palestinian revolution under the leadership of the Palestinian national liberation movement, Fatah"; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] Masses of our struggling nation; sons of our great Palestinian people; revolutionaries engaged in the jihad, heroes of the resistance legend and struggle epic; brave fedayeen, makers of the new Arab time; you steadfast and resisting men behind the lines of defense of the homeland, the people and the revolution. You masses of the valiant popular intifadah; you our heroes struggling in steadfast southern Lebanon; you the sons of the state of Palestine on the soil of the homeland, in exiles, in the diaspora:

On the day of the outbreak of our giant revolution, on the anniversary of the rebirth of our people, the day of the national emergence of our people, on the day of the inauguration of the new Palestinian era, our masses stand up proud of its achievements thanks to its sacrifices and struggles, moving forward its flags which flutter on the threshold of the gate to victory. On this day in which take shape the meanings of sacrifice, cohesiveness, generous sacrifice and steadfastness, the day that has become synonymous with the meanings of freedom, struggle and obdurate resistance; on this anniversary, which coincides with the new year, at a time when we have traversed fresh steps forward on the road to victory, while our people salute, the outbreak of our revolution has enabled them to be reborn and achieve their appointment with history;

What have our people accomplished, brother? They have fulfilled their appointment with history. Yes, they have fulfilled their appointment with history. We note with great pride and respect our martyrs, the martyrs of the people and the revolution who fell on the path of the struggle and the jihad so that the people and Palestine could live. We mention every one in the long line of the honorable heroes who watered the arenas of confrontation with their virtuous and sinless blood.

Generations of strugglers have emerged raising the flag and continuing the struggle. We mention our martyrs, at the forefront of whom are the beloved Abu Jihad, Abu Walid, Kamal 'Idwan, Aba Ali Iyad, Abu Yusuf al-Najjar, Ghasan Kanafani, Majid Abu Sharar, Kamal Nasir, 'Abd al-Fattah Himud, 'Abdallah Siyam, Khalid Nazzal, Abu Sabri, Abu Hasan Salamah, Fahd al-Qawasimah, Abu 'Utwan, al-Husayni, Na'im, Abu Sittah, Abu Tawf, Hamdi, Abu Ghazalah, and many, many, many other martyred heroes in the list of the eternal epic, together with the prophets, the righteous, and those who were their best companions.

On this glorious day; the day of the break of dawn—the break of the dawn of Palestine—we mention our captive heroes, our knights, in the detention camps. Let us turn to them and address a greeting of glory and pride, a greetings of pride in their loftiness while they conquer their jailers and turn prisons into revolutionary bases. [passage omitted]

On this glorious day, we remember, and will not forget, those heroic fighters who were among the pioneers. They offered sacrifices during the bleakest and most difficult circumstances. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sisters, masses of our militant people: The anniversary of the beginning of the revolution represents, during this historic and decisive turning-point, another spark of the boiling resistance. It also represents the promise of continued loyalty to the lives of the eternal martyrs. It also represents a pause for assessemnt and absorbing the lessons and meaning. Yes, at each station we pause and absorb the lessons and meanings as brave, wise and firm fighters would do. [passage omitted]

From one epic to another, from one siege to another, and from the strikes by enemies to the stabbings by brothers. Yes, regrettably, from the strikes of enemies to the stabbings by brothers. From a confrontation to a more intense confrontation at all levels and fronts, our people have been recording the greatest epics of sacrifice and humanitarian offerings with rivers of pure sinless blood, and columns of martyrs, the wounded and the virtuous to defend the dream, the revolution, the rifle, the people, and the nation. [passage omitted]

The secret of this great accomplishment and the secret of the impossible that is possible, the impossible that is possible in our march, lies in you, you my brothers, my beloved courageous sons of our great people. By you and with you, the revolution fought its battles. By you and with you, O heroes, in villages, towns, [refugee] camps, the revolution defended our dreams and objectives from Azwar to 'Urqub, from Beirut to Jerusalem—from the steadfast epic Beirut to the honorable holy Jerusalem, from Sidon to the bleeding Gaza, from Rafaha and Bayt Sahur to Rashiddiyah and Tyre, from Tripoli to Nablus, from Hammam Chott to Hebron and Janin, from the land of Fatah in 'Urqub to Bethlehem with its heritage and traditions, from Ayn al-Hilwah to Jabalyah, Jericho and Shu'fat; and from Nabatiyah to Qalqiliyah and Tulkarm; and from Sabra and Shatila and Burj al-Barajnah to al-Duhaysa, Balata, al-Shati', the central camps and Khan Yunis, with these believing masses, with these believing and sincere masses that have a huge heritage of struggle and revolutionary know-how. [passage omitted]

Our people are the heroes of this epic; they are the phoenix that rises from the ashes and the fire stronger, more of a giant, and with more faith and experience. Likewise, in the difficult march of the struggle and amid

various kinds of plots and perfidy, the revolution has not gone astray. [passage omitted] The position of the people is our source of inspiration, the criterion used to assess our steps, while the orientation, pride, and glory of our Arab nation is our quest, and the nation's future and national security are our preoccupation, away, away, away from U.S. hegemony and Zionist influence, or foreign military presence.

Our revolution is this conscience and feelings of our Arab nation. Our revolution has a Palestinian heart, an Arab face, and international roots, extensions and dimensions, with all free men and honorable men in the world. [passage omitted]

Sons of the revolution: For three years, our celebrations of the revolution anniversary has acquired a new meaning and content. It has had a new flavor. Thanks to the eruption of the valiant people's intifadah, the modern Palestinian intifadah has reached a new advanced level on its march. What has it achieved, brothers? It has achieved a complete and decisive transformation from a young revolution to a revolution of the masses, to the revolution of large masses. These masses are doing us proud, brothers. The revolution is leading the people to certain and destined victory. All this has decisively and scientifically proved once again the strength of the Palestinian revolution methodology. [passage omitted]

The fighters, through their blessed bullets, have been writing new historic and revolutionary pages. They have been continuing what others wanted to cut off. They wanted to wipe out our people, our history, our heritage. These bullets were fired to confirm what they wanted to wipe out as far as the national march of our Palestinian people is concerned. The first bullets were an expression of a deep faith, a form of originality and conformity with history. [passage omitted]

Here is the link that continues and joins with other links, and here is our people, wherever they may be, registering the most numerous types of national unity in terms of invulnerability, steadfastness, and radiance. And here are the cubs of the land in the steadfast and heroic southern Lebanon, embracing the generals of the sacred stones; embracing whom, brothers? The generals of the sacred stones, in our occupied land. And here are the revolutionaries and the mujahidin in all the positions of the revolution and struggle. All these, brothers, constitute this one revolutionary material of a free and proud people, and a believing and authentic Arab nation. The Arab stone in Jerusalem has turned into that binary missile in Baghdad. What happened brothers? That sacred stone in Jerusalem, what did it do? The Palestinian stone in Jerusalem has turned into that binary missile in Baghdad.

Yes, brothers, yes my beloved ones. Here is our people, with its renewed affirmation, every day, continuing its jihad and struggle and resistance. Our people is putting the world in the face of a reality that cannot be transcended, ignored, overlooked, or misinterpreted: the fact that the Palestinian people are determined to continue the jihad. Our people are what, brothers? Determined to do what, brothers? Determined to continue the jihad under the leadership of the PLO, until they recover their inalienable national rights of returning, exercising self-determination, and building their own independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The fact, my fact, is that there can be no peace or stability in the region without the realization of these inalienable Palestinian national rights. There will be no peace. The remotest man in America and the remotest man in the Pacific must realize that there can be no peace or stability in this region without the realization of the inalienable Palestinian national rights of this Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

O you sons of our valiant people, you strugglers in all the positions of the revolution and struggle, inside and outside the homeland; you who, with your patience, forbearance and steadfastness, have recorded the most splendid epics of jihad. [passage omitted]

Our revolution has continued to play its pan-Arab role. We say that with pride. We are an indivisible part of this Arab nation, and therefore, our revolution, your revolution, brothers, has continued to perform its customary pan-Arab role by being continuously ready with initiatives to realize at least the minimum level possible of solidarity between our Arab countries in the face of what was clearly being hatched for it. Out of this came our call to hold a Baghdad summit to warn against two impending dangers threatening the existence of our Arab nation: The first danger was, I am only reminding you although we are living daily through it, you can see the herds of emigrants coming, the danger of Jewish emigration to your country to build Greater Israel.

What was the first threat? Let me remind you. We are experiencing it every day. You have seen the hordes of immigrants coming and going; the threat of Jewish immigration to your country to build greater Israel, or what is called greater Israel, from the Nile to the Euphrates, which is regrettably, financed directly or indirectly by some Arab financial sources which are greedy, greedy, greedy, greedy, toward the strugglers of this nation.

The other danger is the threats aimed at destroying Iraqi military and technical capability because it is set to break the barrier of Israeli superiority over our Arab nation, in addition to threats to Jordan and Lebanon. We were not foreseeing the future then, but we were clearly reading signals and evidence which later exposed the dimensions and danger of the scheme hatched against our Arab nation. We called for an Arab summit and a united Arab stance so that our Arab nation would participate with a single and united voice in the formulation of a new world order built on the debris of the Cold War era. We wanted this nation to be a partner in formulating the order in a way that would enable it to defend its interests,

resources, and future, instead of the new order being built at our expense, to plunder our resources, and at the expense of our future, freedom, and the freedom of our children and future generations. [passage omitted]

We have been and are still against foreign invasion of and presence in the territories of our Arab homeland. We regard this as an invasion which aims at destroying Arab power and capability. We regard it as an invasion which aims at plundering and exploiting our resources. We regard it as a plot which endeavors to consolidate the domination of the United States and its singular manipulation of world leadership—a new Rome, remember, a new Rome—in line with whatever serves its objectives and interests, and for a tyrannical protection at our expense. For what, brothers? For oil and to serve its objectives and interests. To protect [sentence not completed]. You think it is for oil. Is it conceivable? It has become its oil. It is to protect its oil. It is at our expense, at the expense of the sons of pan-Arabism.

I am sounding the bell for this Arab nation. I shall say, however, that despite all that, despite our people's losses due to the Gulf crisis, particularly our community in Kuwait, whose losses reached over $10 billion, and the effects of that on our people who are standing fast under occupation, despite all that, brothers, we have managed to keep our stance throughout, stemming from the fact that this is our free choice. Stemming from what, brothers? This was our free choice. It was not a bet, as some people said in the past. We do not bet. This is our bet. We did not pay any attention to the fabricated campaigns that have been and still are being waged against us. We did not pay attention to those who tried to impose a siege on us, those who attempted to starve our children and our people, the people of the intifadah and those who are outside the occupied land. These people could not comprehend our motives [words indistinct].

This is a practical solution, and it is the only one that could avert us the war catastrophe that is being planned and encouraged by those who wish to oppress our nation and mortgage its future for the sake of its enemies, or by those who have lost their ability to have the necessary vision or take the right decision.

Let everybody know, and I am saying this so that everybody, those near or those who are far away, that our sanctities are more precious that oil, and that the first of the two qiblahs and the third of the two holy places—Muhammad's birthplace and the cradle of Jesus, God's prayers be upon him—are more important than all the U.S. dollars, including the petro-dollars.

Brothers, only the prostrators could believe that these foreign forces came to the [Gulf] region to defend an Arab state or help an Arab people or an Arab ruler. Every day, we hear numerous voices of U.S. institutions and European circles exposing the true intentions of these foreign forces and of their presence in our region. They clearly call for the annihilation of the Iraqi forces and clearly call for a long-term stay of the foreign forces on the Arab soil and Arab oil territories. [passage omitted]

Sons of our great Palestinian people, sons of our Arab nation, martyrs everywhere. Our enemies should realize that our Arab peoples reject the American decade being decreed as a destined fate for this [Arab] nation.

Yes. This Arab nation rejects that an American decade be decreed as a destined fate for it. Our Arab peoples reject attempts to single out an Arab state, whose forces and [words indistinct] and firm pan-Arab stance represent a hope for our nation.

Those who are eager to launch aggression should realize that war is not a picnic. They should realize that they are risking the eruption of a disaster that would spare no one. Yes. No one would be spared. Recent events have proved that our initiatives supported Arab solutions through a peaceful Arab choice under an international umbrella which deals with all issues of the region, especially the Palestian cause. There should be a linkage of all issues of the region, mainly the Palestinian matter. This solution will have more world support and backing.

Brothers, beloved ones, free people of our Arab nation. Events at the United Nations Security Council during the past months have drawn a prototype of the world as conceived by Washington. Yes, brothers. Washington [word indistinct]. While resolutions against Iraq and regarding the Gulf were passed in record time [words indistinct] a resolution regarding the protection of our Palestinian people against the massacres and killings daily committed by the Zionists needed 48 days to be adopted and only as a partial resolution, an incomplete one, because of U.S. pressure and its double standard policy pursued toward international legitimacy and the UN resolutions. [passage omitted]

Masses of the revolution, sons of our great people, masses of our Arab nation. Face up to the challenges of the new year; if the hopes seem enormous and missions great, the horizons seem even more appealing. We will embark on the new year of the revolution armed with its achievements and the sacrifices of our fighters and masses. We will begin the new year at a time when our cause has imposed itself on the world agenda as a point that cannot be postponed. We begin the new year after having confirmed once again the strong ability of our people to face up to the challenges, the massacres, and the war of starvation waged by the enemies and some brothers. Yes, some brothers are waging a starvation war against the children of the intifadah. [passage omitted]

Our faithful and strong people stand firm against the enemy; our people firmly hold their guns in southern Lebanon and their sacred stones inside the homeland. Here are our people, whose intifadah has opened the new Arab era; through coordination and twinning with the Arab and particularly the Iraqi military forces, they are achieving a base; what is this base, brothers? It is the base of Arab steadfastness and the pure free future. [passage omitted]

Revolutionaries, militants, masses of our fighting people. During the new year, the year of the spark of victory, the year of the spark of victory, the year of the spark of victory, expect an escalation of aggression from our enemies. Yes, brothers we do expect this. Likewise, the enemies should expect a further escalation of our continuous struggle. During the new year, we expect plots to be exposed, the schemes of terrorism, destitution, and attempts at breaking the ranks and undermining national unity will be exposed. However, during the new year, the enemies should experience scorching times and various hot months of struggle. Let the coming days be more fiery, more blazing and explosive. Let our new year be a year for the consolidation and realization of national unity, the strong element of our steadfastness and assured victory. Let us escalate our struggle, let our intifadah be more blazing, let our flags flutter on the walls, churches, and minarets of Jerusalem. Let our flags be raised on every inch of the homeland. Let everybody realize that the inception of a new world order that guarantees stability and peace can only be achieved if the national and firm palestinian rights are realized. Let everybody know that this people who launched the revolution of the impossible and ignited the intifadah miracle, this people that sacrificed, fought and struggled, this people will follow the same path thanks to a firm belief, unyielding will and unbreakable determination. This people, which believes in its goals, is capable of facing up to the plots of siege and starvation from all sides, thus proving its loyality to beliefs, aspirations and insistence through perserverance on the path of the sincere and faithful struggle.

Victory is near, success is near, establishing a state is at a stone throw's distance. [passage omitted] May the revolution continue until victory, victory, victory. Your brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir Arafat].

'Arafat Says 'No One Will Dare' Go To War

AU0201095891 Paris AFP in English 0955 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Paris, Jan 2 (AFP)—Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said he does not believe the Gulf crisis will result in war because "no-one will dare", in an interview published in the French daily LE FIGARO on Wednesday.

Remembering the emperor who fiddled while Rome burned, he said "I cannot imagine that there is a new Nero capable of plunging the world into war and destruction. No one will dare." He believed a negotiated settlement would present itself, despite "signs that we are coming closer to war", particularly because of U.S. President George Bush's "obstinacy in refusing all negotiations or dialogue".

He attacked Israel, which he said was "keeping a low profile before the battle. But once the battle starts, it will play a leading role. That became clear after (Israeli Prime Minister) Yitzhaq Shamir's last visit to Washington and the strategic accord between the United States and Israel. The Israelis are calling for an escalation and they are contributing to it by reinforcing their presence in south Lebanon, where they have a missiles base."

Mr. Arafat said he saw only one way out of the crisis: an international peace conference on the Middle East, which should be held "as soon as possible".

Salah Khalaf Said To Oppose Pro-Iraq Stance

PM0101140991 London AL-ZAHIRAH in Arabic 29 Dec 90 p1

[Unattributed report: "Secret of Abu-Iyad's Utter Silence"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, Tunis, exclusive—It has been learned from sources close to Palestinian leader Salah Khalaf, Abu-Iyad, that he is maintaining silence these days because of his undeclared disagreement with the Palestinian leadership over ways of tackling the Gulf crisis and over the PLO's pro-Iraq position.

The sources add that Abu-Iyad's position has affected Iraq's attitude toward his supporters in Kuwait. Iraq has now expelled them from Kuwait and it has also arrested a large number of his followers and jailed them in Baghdad and at the same time let supporters of Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] and other extremists surface in the streets of Kuwait.

According to the same sources, moderate Palestinian figures have advised Abu-Iyad to declare his position frankly instead of just voicing it privately. They believe that Abu-Iyad is on the verge of expressing his views openly and may not attend Fatah and PLO meetings. Some friends are trying to bridge the gap between him and the PLO leadership to prevent an eruption, but all indications are that the situation will explode and it will reach the point of boycott awaiting what happens after 15 January. The PLO will be the first to be affected by what happens.

Abu-Iyad and some of his sympathizers believe that the PLO's position on the Gulf crisis is unwise. [passage omitted]

PFLP Official Comments

JN3012151390 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 30 Dec 90 p 17

[Text] Amman—We have received the following from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP]:

Commenting on Abu-Iyad's [Salah Khalaf] denial in AL-RA'Y of the PFLP's statement on multi-party contacts carried out by Saudi businessman 'Adnan al-Khashuqji with the aim of establishing a Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip, 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the PFLP's Political Bureau, said the following:

It seems that brother Abu-Iyad is unaware of the contacts carried out by Saudi businessman 'Adnan al-Khashuqji with

Abba Eban, Shim'on Peres, and an adviser to Israeli Minister Sharon on the one hand, and a Palestinian figure known for his friendship with al-Khashuqji on the other. The PFLP has information that confirms these contacts.

The statement of Yosi Beilin, a leader of the Israeli Labor Party, about a month ago stemmed from the ideas that resulted from these dialogues, which are also old ideas adopted by some groups in the Israeli Labor Party.

The principle aim of these contacts and proposals is to push the PLO out of its alliance with Iraq in order to undermine Iraq's political position, and to thwart the results expected from linking the two issues, as mentioned in President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative, by offering flimsy incentives to the Palestinian side.

The Zionist enemy is not considering making any concessions willingly over the Strip or other areas. Its principle aim is to control more land to settle the growing numbers of Soviet Jewish emigrants in particular, and to strike the glorious intifadah. The 1991 budget indicates this priority. Some parties are discussing the establishment of a new coalition government to confront future possibilities, which of course do not include giving the Palestinian people their national rights.

Therefore, we must be very careful of the conspiracies that are being concocted by the enemies of our people and nation. We must also be careful not to wager on the temptations extended to us by our enemies via their Arab agents.

Algeria

Economy Minister on Need To Accelerate Reforms

LD3112131690 Algiers APS in English 1140 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Algiers, 31/12/90 (APS)—Minister of Economy Ghazi Hidouci, pleaded on Sunday in favour of acceleration of economic reforms by taking advantage from the improvement of state receipts and the boosting of constructive dialogue at all levels of economic and social life", in Algeria of 1990.

During a press conference, to assess what has been achieved the minister asserted that the state resources in foreign currency will be important, at least till June 1991. Therefore, reforms could be completed before 1993. That is why things should be accelerated in implementing market economy to assure the financial rehabilitation of public companies, liberalization of external trade so that our currency becomes convertible.

According to Hidouci, such an objective is urgent in the sense that the social situation of Algeria demands it and uncertainties will affect international financial and oil markets. In this regard, Hidouci recalled that 100 billion dinars will be allocated to rehabilitate the net financial situation of public companies next year instead of 1993. [passage omitted]

Speaking about the support of basic products' prices, the parliament and the government managed, said Hidouci, to achieve "a solidarity amendment" by increasing the financial assistance to 28 billion dinars in order to freeze prices despite Dinar's devaluation.

Voicing his conviction that youths and managers of companies would be more conscious of this system, Hidouci announced that the government defends the public sector by giving means of production to the Algerian so as to fructify them with modern tasks and a bigger freedom of initiative. The minister called on all educated people to take position at the leading point of the strive for modernity and democracy.

As for IMF's (International Monetary Fund) conditionality, it is, according to Hidouci, excluded in the case of Algeria because it is not affected by suspension of payments nor bankruptcy, Algeria's economic options in terms of employment and finance are contrary to IMF's conditions, said Hidouci. Therefore, its (Algeria's) internal laws have no link with any submission to this financial institution criteria.

Sentences Handed Down for Attack on Court

LD3112183190 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 31 Dec 90

Seven death sentences in absentia, one sentence of 10 years' imprisonment, two sentences of three years' imprisonment, and one sentence of one year's imprisonment: These were the sentences handed down this morning by Blida court in the case of the accused in the matter of the attack on this same court, as you might recall, on 16 January. The indictment of the court included several charges: premeditated murder, kidnapping, illegal confinement, maltreatment, criminal association, and possession of prohibited weapons.

Commentary on Compulsory Arabic Language

LD3012174290 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Mohamed Halloub commentary]

[Text] France has denounced a matter of Algerian sovereignty. In a manner beyond imagination, French media and Paris authorities acted immediately after the Algerian National People's Assembly approved a draft law on the generalization of the Algerian national language.

This flagrant interference astounds all patriots who ask, in complete bewilderment, how a foreign country dares to interfere in matters of our country's national sovereignty. Others ask: does the approval by the people's deputies of a draft law making the use of the Arabic langage compulsory constitute a transgression on freedoms, as some quarters allege?

Colleague Mohammed Halloub tries to reply to this question and to tackle the various aspects of this linguistic issue in the following commentary, which is read by Barhoum Boudjema:

[Boudjema] It was not an act of appeasement, nor was it a favor from the National People's Assembly or the government of Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche, that an end was put to reluctance and fear and the calculations of interested parties collapsed, along with the illusion of the cultural extension overseas.

It was politically and morally acceptable for us to continue to accept dual languages at some stage, as dictated by the logic of history and the gradual development of society. It was logical, too, until today, by virtue of the constitution and the freedom of expression and opinion, and political plurality it guarantees, for us to continue to reject initiatives to give the Arab language its applicatory dimension by compulsory legislation, and thereby restore to it the position it deserves as bestowed on it by the 23 February Constitution, in response to the feelings of the overwhelming majority of the people.

Hence, the National People's Assembly did not seem to appease the feelings of the people. After all the criticism it faced, the assembly wanted to end its legislative term by the promulgation of this law, the law of the generalization of the use of the Arabic language. Furthermore, the government headed by Mr. Mouloud Hamrouche who promised, during a television interview last year, to prepare a draft law compulsorily generalizing the use of the Arabic language, was not doing anyone a favor by the introduction of the Arabic language law. What has

happened was inevitable, and naturally inspired by the people's conscience in its cultural depth.

Without emotionalism and in order to avoid classifications and descriptions what might ensue from our commentary, we wish to ask the following question from an objective analytical point of view: Does the promulgation of the law on the generalization of the use of the Arabic language really constitute an infringement of freedom, as viewed by some political groups and personalities? For this is the foolish pretext used by a select minority to reject all steps taken on the road of Arabization, which continues to face obstacles after more than a quarter of century.

The law does not force anyone to create within the circle of his private life any particular linguistic or cultural atmosphere. Here are the basic freedoms. To raise discordant voices aimed at imposing on society's institutions the use of several languages is the true transgression of true popular choice.

We in Algeria are living through contradictions, which some politicians and intelligentsia want to canonize and sanctify. Otherwise, how can we explain the current campaign against the law on the usage of the Arabic language? Does not this campaign mean a desire to promulgate a law for the generalization of the use of the French language, and another for the generalization of the Amazigi [Berber] language, so freedoms are not considered infringed and so true linguistic multiplicity can be consecrated?

Anyway, those who oppose this law will surely throw all their weight behind the last chance to annul it. Activity will be moved from the lobbies of the National People's Assembly to the presidency of the Republic in order to impede the signing of the draft law and prevent its enforcement.

The final question that remains is this: Will the presidency of the Republic close its ears and ignore the voices whose only place is in the luxurious salons and hotels and the elite quarters?

Marchers Burn Hotel To Protest New Year Party

LD0101192991 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Excerpt] The town of Telagh, near Sidi Bel Abbes, experienced a disturbed night. Disturbances took place near a hotel, where a group of residents asked the hotel manager to cancel a party. A further report from Oran station:

[Reporter] The end of the Christian year was full of incidents in Telagh, 50 km from Sid Bel Abbes. A march started peacefully from the town mosque immediately after afternoon prayers, to demand the cancellation of a party organized by the biggest hotel in town. This march turned into violent and riotous acts, and ended painfully with the burning of the hotel, causing huge losses estimated by the hotel owner at 70 million centimes. There were also casualties among security officers and demonstrators. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Appeals to Saddam in Address

NC3112171590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1630 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Cairo, 31 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to face the Arab and international reality with the wisdom dictated by the demands of his historical responsibility. He warned that the world is heading toward a merciless inferno and horrible days in which cities will collapse and the gravest damage will be done to the interests of the Arab people, and first and foremost to the Iraqis. In this context, the president emphasized that everyone is seeking peace and providing one opportunity after another to implement the international resolutions concerning withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy to avert destruction and annihilation.

In a new appeal he addressed today to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to mark the new year, President Mubarak described those who are urging a bloody confrontation, which would be unprecedented by all standards, as people who do not understand the facts and who persist in their use of the slogans that have already wasted our time, undermined our rights, and harmed our souls.

President Mubarak stressed that the truly bold move would be to withdraw the Iraqi troops from Kuwait. He pointed out that real bravery lies in making the hard and self-denying decision that upholds the values of life for the sake of all. He said that true courage lies in being an able leader whom the people entrust with primary responsibility.

President Mubarak addressed the Iraqi president saying: O Arab brother: Now is not the time for a war of words when the means of war and the weapons of destruction are taking up their positions. He asserted that the situation is serious beyond measure, adding: The decision for peace rests in your hands.

Following is the text of President Husni Mubarak's appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The sons of the Arab nation and the Islamic peoples, who are following the situation in these moments with great concern and anxiety, know that I have addressed more than one appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, that I have dispatched more than one envoy to him, and that I have sent other messages to him through the Iraqi Embassy in Egypt. In all these contacts, I told him with all sincerity and truthfulness of our duty to the fateful

joint Arab causes and the horrible tragedy that may befall the region should the current deterioration of the situation continue.

In all these appeals and messages, I urged President Saddam, on behalf of every man, woman, and child in our Arab land, to decide in favor of the course dictated by international legitimacy, directed by concern for Arab interests, and advocated by man's conscience wherever he may be; however, I have yet to receive any response to my repeated appeals that encourages optimism about the peace we and every member of the international community are seeking. Several other appeals, of much the same substance and to serve the same purpose, have been addressed to the Iraqi president from many capitals. They have met the same fate.

The Iraqi response has not changed, even in its phrasing. They repeated that there will be no withdrawal from Kuwait and that they are ready to risk everything, regardless of the consequences and the dangers, to preserve their annexation of Kuwait.

Nevertheless, I address this new appeal to President Saddam Husayn at the beginning of the new year. God knows that I appeal to him in all sincerity and truthfulness, and seeking nothing but good, to face the Arab and international reality with the wisdom dictated by the demands of his historical responsibility. I believe he is capable of doing this.

I fear that we are approaching a merciless inferno and horrible days, which, as President Saddam Husayn knows better than anyone, do not permit challenges and defiance. This will not avert a destiny in which hair turns white with fear, cities collapse, bodies float in seas of blood as a result of weapons of mass destruction, and the gravest damage is done to the interests of the Arab people, and first and foremost to the brotherly Iraqi people.

I say this in full awareness of the seriousness of the situation, in my capacity as president of an Arab state which holds Iraq and its people dear, and as a man with long experience in war and its dangers.

Everyone is seeking peace; and there is an Arab, Islamic, and international consensus on peace. Everyone is providing one opportunity after another to implement the international resolutions concerning withdrawal and the restoration of legitimacy to avert annihilation, destruction, and devastation. Brother President Saddam, if you sense support for your stand in some voices, you should know that these same voices reject Kuwait's occupation and annexation. They also hope for peace and seek to achieve it.

Let us ignore those who are clamoring for a bloody confrontation, which would be unprecedented by all standards. They regrettably are not aware of the facts or they still use slogans which have already cost us dearly in terms of our time, our rights, and our souls.

I reiterate to you that the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait—after all that has happened—will be the truly courageous decision, because courage lies in making the hard decisions in which one sacrifices for the sake of others, upholds the value of life, and shows concern for the livelihood of millions of people and their rights to live in peace in their homes and among their families.

True courage lies in acting unselfishly on issues of life or death. This is the duty of leaders who are chosen by their peoples to hold the primary position of responsibility.

Ancient and modern history has taught us that leaders and commanders were respected because they rose above short-term considerations and were willing to override earlier decisions. They did not remain intransigent; instead, they adopted responsible and rational decisions. It is no disgrace for a man of truth to return to the truth.

Therefore, I appeal to you to sacrifice any personal considerations. If you do not make this small sacrifice, you will be sacrificing the lives of hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children. You will be sacrificing their lives, their present, their future, their families, and their homes. This is in addition to the comprehensive ruin and destruction that will be done to the sites of development and production, damage that will not be erased by years of efforts and billions of pounds.

O Arab brother: Now is not the time for a war of words when the means of war and weapons of destruction are taking up their positions.

We are not involved in a war of wits that might postpone the inevitable for some time. No one can escape the inevitable. The battle plans have been carefully studied and are on the table.

We cannot afford to wait for international disintegration or differences of opinion. The fate of war or peace in our Arab land is now governed by a unanimous and irrevocable international resolution, which has been supported by successive clear statements by all concerned.

I will allow myself to repeat clearly that the situation is serious beyond measure. The decision for peace rests in your hands. If you make this decision, you will be viewed by us all as a brave Arab citizen who responded to the conscientious calls of his nation.

Our nation has long suffered from slogans and cheers. It has also suffered from falling into traps that wasted time, traps that we built ourselves and that have obstructed our own march.

Peace is needed in building a new world. Our nation will not lag behind in the construction of this new world because of our belief in man and his right to lead a dignified life. We do not want to face the threat of destruction or devastation.

The decision for peace rests in your hands. If you make this decision, you will be regarded by us as an Arab who

rushed to uphold the truth and who surrendered to no deception. We will all support you in this brave decision and share in its responsibility and consequences.

I pray to the Almighty to guide us all to the road of truthfulness, light, and peace. He is omnipotent. For God is with those who restrain themselves and those who do good. [Koranic verse]. May God's peace and mercy be upon you.

Mubarak Rejects Deputy Premier's Resignation

PM0101155791 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 22 Dec 90 pp 1-2

[Ahmad Lutfi report: "Mubarak Rejects Wali's Resignation in Protest at Government's Stance During Elections"]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has recently refused to accept the resignation submitted by Dr. Yusuf Wali—deputy prime minister, agriculture minister, and secretary general of the National [Democratic] Party [NDP]—in protest at the stance of Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi and some ministers and governors from among the party's candidates in the recent elections. President Mubarak asked Dr. Wali to continue his ministerial and party work until changes are made within the government, among the governors, and within the NDP. AL-WAFD has learned that there is an intention to appoint Dr. Wali vice president while retaining his post as NDP secretary general.

Dr. Wali referred to President Mubarak all the memorandums and reports which he received from party secretaries in the governorates on the course of the election process and the governors' positions toward the party's candidates, as some of them supported and backed independent candidates and interfered in the process of the ballot.

In his report to the political leadership, Dr. Wali revealed that open instructions were issued by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to the governors and ministers to work to hit the NDP in the election with the aim of toppling Dr. Wali and Kamal al-Shadhili, secretary of the party's organization, because of their refusal to nominate Councillor 'Adil Sidqi, brother of the prime minister, as an NDP candidate for the Tukh constituency!

Dr. Wali was in a state of frustration and depression after the announcement of the election results and Dr. Sidqi's formation of a "lobby" against him in the Council of Ministers and among the governors. The NDP secretary general was very satisfied during President Mubarak's speech following the inauguration of the new People's Assembly session in which he criticized the governorates' practices, pointing out that the governorates are not a farm or a country estate under their control. Councillor 'Adil Sidqi announced in a press statement that he would not join the NDP before it is "cleansed" of Dr. Wali and Kamal al-Shadhili. Newspapers omitted the names of Dr. Wali and Kamal al-Shadhili from the statement, and constituents were surprised to discover that Councillor Sidqi had joined the NDP the following day!

'Abd-al-Majid On Gulf, EC-Iraqi Dialogue

NC0101151991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1333 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that President Husni Mubarak's appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn yesterday came first and foremost for the sake of Iraq and the Iraqi people and for saving the region from the scourge of a destructive war.

He expressed the hope that Iraq will respond to the president's appeal which fell within Egypt's efforts to bring about a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

He stressed that, by addressing an appeal to Iraq, President Mubarak has conveyed a message to Iraq's people and leadership about the seriousness of the situation, acting in line with the saying of God's messenger: "O God I have conveyed the message, so be my witness."

'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt hopes that the meeting of Jacques Poos, EC chairman and Luxembourg's foreign minister, with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, proposed to be held on Friday, will help reach a peaceful settlement to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that the EC chairman is fully aware of the situation and that the dialogue between them is desirable and does not contravene the likelihood of establishing an American-Iraqi dialogue. [passage omitted]

He remarked that the European-Iraqi dialogue along with the American-Iraqi dialogue will help to find a peaceful settlement and save the region from the scourge of war.

He noted that the fait accompli situation which has been imposed by force cannot be accepted, nor can it endure. He reasserted the importance of not linking between the solution of the Iraqi-Kuwaiti dispute and the solution of the Palestinian issue because the (?justification of occupying) the state of Kuwait in order to solve the Palestinian issue is not acceptable.

He said Egypt basically seeks to bring about a just solution to the Palestinian issue, adding that this is required and possible. He also noted Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar's effort in this respect.

He noted that Egypt has not received any reaction to these attempts and explained that Arab security must stem from within the Arab family and that it can not be imposed from outside.

'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the increased immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel is one of the negative ramifications of the Gulf crisis.

He said the next few days will see expeditious attempts to promote peaceful solutions and a genuine desire to reach a solution and he hoped that a response would come from Iraq.

Commenting on relations between Egypt and Sudan, he asserted that the link between them is firm and eternal and that Egypt is keen on Sudan's stability and prosperity.

He expressed the hope that fraternal Sudan will be able to overcome its economic problems.

On the occasion of the new year, he said Egypt wishes all good, progress, prosperity, and stability for fraternal Sudan.

On the situation in Lebanon, he said Egypt is following the situation there. He added that the formation of the Lebanese government came as an indication of Lebanon's stability, and asserted Egypt's concern for the continuation of stability, the establishment of security, and achieving national unity in Lebanon, as well as for Lebanon's resumption of its Arab role.

Concerning the Arab League, he said the league was founded in Cairo according to the league charter's provisions and that it returned also in accordance with the league charter.

He emphasized that there are no problems concerning the Arab League's function and that league's center in Tunis began to operate today.

Speaking about Egyptian-Libyan relations, he remarked that there are positive steps toward developing and enhancing the relations between the two countries.

Concluding his statement, 'Abd-al-Majid said the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Saudi Arabia will hold their fourth session in Riyadh on Friday.

This session was scheduled to be held in Jeddah on 27 December and was postponed to 29 December.

Libyan, Syrian Ministers Arrive for Talks

Libya's Al-Bishari Arrives

NC0101213091 Cairo MENA in English 2043 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, Jan. 1—(MENA)—Libyan Foreign Minister [title as received] Ibrahim Muhammad [al-Bishari] arrived here tonight on a two-day visit to attend a tripartite meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Libya, and Syria.

Speaking on arrival, he said his visit is aimed at attending the tripartite meeting to discuss developments witnessed by the region, especially the current crisis in the Gulf region, the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, and issues of common interest. [passage omitted]

Syrian Foreign Minister Arrives

NC0201092891 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0918 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar' arrived in Cairo this morning to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Libya to be held later today. The three foreign ministers will prepare for a summit meeting of the leaders of the three states.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister met al-Shar' at the airport.

Talks Begin

NC0201100191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—The meetings of the Egyptian, Libyan, and Syrian foreign ministers opened this morning. The talks were attended by Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Ibrahim Muhammad al-Bishari, head of the Libyan People's Committee for External Relations [title as received]; and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The talks will focus on arrangements for the tripartite summit that will be held in the next few days as well as on the Gulf crisis and current developments in the Middle East.

Talks End

NC0201104191 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1012 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—The foreign ministers of Egypt, Libya, and Syria have ended their meeting that began earlier today. During the one-hour meeting they discussed arrangements for a tripartite summit and the agenda for that summit. The three ministers then went to meet President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Al-Sharif Returns With Al-Qadhdhafi Message

NC0201061491 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2040 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 1 Jan (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif and the delegation accompanying him returned to Cairo from Tripoli this evening, following a one-day visit to Libya. During the visit he delivered a message to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi from President Husni Mubarak.

Upon arrival, al-Sharif stated that he is taking a message to President Husni Mubarak from Col. al-Qadhdhafi on the two countries' consultations over the current conditions in the region and bilateral relations.

Delegates Leave for Saudi Arabia To Meet Troops

NC0201070691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0608 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Cairo, 2 Jan (MENA)—A delegation of Egypt's People's Assembly and Consultative Council left Cairo this morning for Hafar al-Batin area in Saudi Arabia to meet with the Egyptian troops deployed there.

Among the delegation members are Dr. 'Abd-al-Ahad Jamal-al-Din, People's Assembly deputy speaker; Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub; Dr. Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of the republic; and Ahmad al-'Amawi, chairman of the Egyptian Trade Unions Association.

EC Extends $10 Million 'Urgent Aid' to Egypt

JN3112181490 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Dec 90 p 1

[Muhammad Fahmi report from Brussels]

[Text] The EC has expressed satisfaction with the efforts being made by Egypt to introduce economic reforms, and the negotiations under way with the IMF, which seem to be leading to an imminent agreement. The EC also emphasized the importance of giving food supplies to Egypt. The EC has extended $10 million as urgent aid to Egypt to settle Egyptians returning from Iraq and Kuwait.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Announces Tripartite Summit

NC0101201091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1835 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jan (MENA)—Libyan Revolution Leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has announced that a tripartite summit will be held in the next few days. He did not, however, say where the summit will be held, though it has been rumored here that the summit will be held in the Libyan capital.

Al-Qadhdhafi added that the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, and Libya will hold a meeting in Cairo tomorrow to prepare for this summit, which may be joined by a fourth party, which he did not name. Col. al-Qadhdhafi noted that the summit will focus on the situation in the Gulf and efforts to avoid a further deterioration. He said a third world war may break out and we have to take a stand to prevent it. He further added that the Arab nation needs peace, stability, and mobilization in the face of the enemy.

Al-Qadhdhafi was speaking to Egyptian reporters following his meeting this evening with a National Democratic Party delegation led by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif. He underlined that Libya is against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, as well as the foreign presence in the gulf region.

Al-Qadhdhafi said: Egypt has taken a positive stand vis-a-vis unity. The Egyptian People's Assembly adopted a decision granting Libyans the right to own property in Egypt and vice versa. He described the decision as stronger than the peaceful marches calling for removing borderlines separating the regions of the homeland. He also said the decision is sound, adding: We are pleased with President Mubarak's leadership of Egypt.

'Unity Marches' Begin Toward Borders

LD0101113891 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jan (JANA)—[Passage indistinct] Since the early morning, the masses pouring from the various municipalities of the Great Jamahiriyah began moving toward the natural extents of the Arab homeland, on both the eastern and western sides, in peaceful unity marches together with Arab brothers to ask the Arab governments to remove the artificial borders which imperialism created among sons of the Arab people from the ocean to the Gulf.

[Words indistinct] the municiipality of Surt to infuse in peaceful unity marches with the Arab masses of fraternal Sudan carrying placards affirming the need for speeding up the establishment of comprehensive Arab unity and demanding the elimination of the imaginary borders among sons of the one nation throughout the Greater Arab Homeland and the establishment of the unity [words indistinct] akin to what was achieved by the willpower of the German masses, which demolished the Berlin Wall and established German nationalist unity in the face of all difficulties and challenges.

On the other hand, the popular masses marching toward the imaginary regional borders which imperialism created between the Great Jamahiriyah and fraternal Egypt have begun to arrive successively since yesterday morning at Imsa'id area, from which the masses that believe in the inevitable establishment of comprehensive Arab unity have begun to move in marches from the various towns and villages of the Al-Bayan al-Awwal [Banghazi] and the Jabal al-Akhdar municipalities.

The masses participating in these unity marches have raised placards expressing their staunch will to proceed toward the realization of comprehensive Arab unity and to reply to the enemies of the Arab nation who want to keep it divided and destitute.

Peaceful unity marches will spread throughout the Arab homeland as of today, Tuesday, the first of the month of Ayy an-Nar [January], in which the masses will demand the elimination of borders created by Western imperialism among the sons of the one Arab nation from the ocean to the Gulf.

Government 'Trying' To Send Food to Somalia

LD0101084791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] JANA has learned that the Great Jamahiriyah is trying to provide food supplies to the Somali capital, Mogadishu, whose inhabitants have been living under difficult food conditions as a result of the power struggle.

Egyptian Minister, Party Officials Arrive 1 Jan

LD0101171391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1640 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jan (JANA)—Dr. Safwat al-Sharif, information minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, brother Kamal al-Shadhli, assistant secretary general of the Egyptian National Party, and the secretaries of specialist committees of the Party, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah in the framework of bilateral contacts between the General People's Congress in the Great Jamahiriyah and the National Party of Egypt.

Depart 2 Jan

LD0201104391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Tripoli, 1 Jan (JANA)—The Egyptian minister of information, Dr. Safwat al-Sharif, and the delegation accompanying him left Tripoli yesterday evening at the end of a brief visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Mauritania

Womens' Group Condemns Attack on 'Peace Ship'

AB3112202890 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Press release issued by executive secretary at the Department of Women's Development on 29 December]

[Text] On 16 December, the General Union of Arab Women decided to send off the vessel Ibn Khaldoon, a peace ship, carrying women and children from various Arab countries and other nationalities. The passengers of the ship, who were waving the peace flag and singing the song of peace and brotherhood, had no bad intentions against anyone, but were rather calling for the well-being and prosperity of humanity as a whole. The ship, which was heading for Basra, was carrying thousands of drugs for Iraqi children. On its way, the ship, which was encircled, fell victim to piracy by foreign forces stationed in the region. Disregarding human rights provisions and the noble values of generosity, the forces caused panic among children and women who have been working for initiatives of peace and the well-being of persons.

On this occasion, Mauritanian women, messengers of justice, peace, and brotherhood, condemn the operation in which the peace ship was attacked and appeal to the international community and public international opinion for an end to the act of piracy being carried out against the peace ship and help it to continue with its humanitarian work. It also urgently appeals to international organizations concerned with the rights of children to assume their responsibilities in the face of this situation.

AFP Cites Communique on 1991 Budget

AB0101121891 Paris AFP in French 1455 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 28 Dec (AFP)—Mauritania's 1991 budget, which was adopted yesterday by the cabinet, seems identical to the previous year's and is fixed at more than 23 billion ouguiyas (Fr 1.15 billion), a government communique issued today in Nouakchott disclosed. This budget, the text explained, is in accordance with the 1990-1992 consolidation and recovery program mapped out by the Mauritanian Government with the support of the IMF and the World Bank. It will help to ensure durable economic growth. The rate of growth in 1990 fell below estimate due especially to low production in major Mauritanian productive sectors like agriculture and fisheries, the communique added.

The communique also disclosed that public investment for the next year will attain 14.89 billion ouguiyas thus recording an increase of 5.7 percent over the current year and that they will cover 156 projects, including 46 new ones. This investment will give priority to territorial administration (30 percent), agriculture (27 percent), and industrial development (14 percent). It also includes three mineral projects accorded by the Paris Club. They were recently confirmed at more than 2 billion ouguiyas (Fr 133 million), the government communique concluded.

Morocco

Trade Unions-Government Wage Talks Deadlocked

LD2912112190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] In Morocco, the Democratic Labor Confederation [CDT] and the General Union of Moroccan Workers [UGMT] said that the negotiations between them and the Moroccan Government about wages have reached deadlock.

The two Moroccan trade unions, which have called for a 14 January general strike, emphasized in a statement issued yesterday that they would remain committed to their demands, and that at the same time would demand a complete respect of human rights and the release of all detainees.

Human Rights Council Urges Suspension of Trials

LD3112133290 Rabat MAP in English 1256 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Rabat, Dec. 31 (MAP)—The members of the Consultative Council for Human Rights [CCDH] have

called for a recommendation on 'the immediate suspension' of all the trials of persons arrested during the incidents that marked the December 14 general strike pending the results of the fact finding commissions.

The information was run Sunday by 'L'OPINION' daily (Istiqlal party) which added the CCDH nine members, who called for the suspension, referred a memorandum on the matter to the CCDH secretary general.

The daily said that the memorandum specifies the suings and trials have entailed 'the withdrawal of the defense due to violation of procedure which breach the rights of the defendants'.

The CCDH was incepted last may by the Moroccan sovereign to consider the situation of human rights in the Kingdom and secure fundamental freedom and political and trade union rights. The Council was received Friday by the sovereign and has set up a fact finding commision to investigate the Demember 14 incidents.

UGTM Leader Acquitted; Others Sentenced

LD0101113491 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Rabat, Jan. 1 (MAP)—The tribunal of the first instance of Fes Monday acquitted the secretary general of the General Union of Moroccan Workers (UGTM) Mohamed Alaoui Titna, who was arrested on December 14 following the incidents that broke out parallel to the general strike the same day called for the UGTM and the Democratic Labor Confederation (CDT).

Titna was charged with rebellion, armed ganging and dissemination of false information.

The Fes court of appeal, which started Monday the examination of the files of 64 detainees, including six women, arrested on the same occasion, postponed the judgment of six of the detainees to January 14 and the others to January 15 after a request of the defense.

These persons are charged with arson, constitution of gangs, vandalism, theft and assault. Some 400 people wer brought before the court since the incidents. Sentences will be pronounced as of January 2 concerning these persons.

The first instance court judged some 53 persons and 40 were condemned to imprisonment terms ranging from one to seven years and twelve were acquitted [numbers as received].

The tribunal of the first instance of Rabat, for its part, Monday resumed the consideration of the cases of 35 persons arrested on December 15. The tribunal postponed the hearings for next Thursday. The 25 [as received] defendants denied the charges against them, namely rebellion, assault, vandalism.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Decrees Islamic Law for North

AB3112215890 Paris AFP in English 1912 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Dec 31 (AFP)—Sudanese leader General 'Umar al-Bashir announced Monday that Islamic law was being imposed in northern Sudan with immediate effect.

Gen. al-Bashir, in a speech broadcast on radio and television to mark Sudan's independence day, said the mainly-Christian and animist south of the country would be allowed to choose its own legal system and that in the meantime its laws would remain unchanged. The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army has been fighting for a secular state throughout Sudan and has opposed the imposition of Islamic or Shari'a, law.

Gen. al-Bashir said he was acting "in accordance with the will of God and popular demand." "Shari'a law will be applied with prudence and in accordance with the tolerance of Islam, its justice and the rights of individuals and groups," he said.

He said that his government had "taken great steps forward in revising Sudan's laws to guarantee they are in accordance with Shari'ah la." He said that Shari'a law would also apply to the banking system, "bringing an end to usury in official transactions."

A government-sponsored national conference in late 1989 called for the reorganization of Sudan's political system along federal lines to respect regional differences. [passage omitted]

U.S. Denounced Over Libyan POW Issue

EA3112171790 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1445 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] The foreign minister has commented that recent compulsory transportation of the Libyan POW's from Chad to the USA by the U.S. Air Force was (?a direct) flagrant violation. The ministry, in a statement issued yesterday, has confirmed Sudan's firm stance besides the Libyan Jamahiriyah towards the move which, according to the statement, represents a flagrant violation to Libya and its security as well as to the international law and customs. [sentence as heard]

The Sudan's Foreign Ministry has indicated that according to the news report, that the abducted Libyans will undergo brainwashing and special training to carry out subversive and tyrannistic acts against the Jamahiriyah, adding that no official denial was made so far.

The act represents dangerous precedence that threatens the security and stability of the Arab and African countries and refutes the U.S. credibility as a superpower, the statement added. The statement also urged all the

member states of Arab League, OAU, and the UN as well as the international community to denounce the U.S. aggression against Libya.

SPLA, 'Legitimate High Command' Issue Statement

EA0101195091 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Press statement on the meetings and resolutions between SPLM-SPLA political-military High Command and the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces from 21 to 23 December 1990]

[Text] The series of meetings commencing from 21 to 23 December 1990 between the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] political-military High Command and the Legitimate Command of the Sudanese Armed Forces in one of the towns in Sudan to discuss the details of the nature of their struggle and the present political situation in the country were characterized by a [word indistinct] and harmonious atmosphere. The meeting was attended by seven members of the SPLM-SPLA political-military High Command, including its chairman, Comrade Commander John Garang de Mabior, and on the Legitimate Command side by three members, including its leader, General Fathi Ahmad Ali.

This was the first meeting between the sides since the establishment of the Legitimate Command. The discussions have reached an advanced stage, centered on, and agreed: 1. to continue meeting periodically; 2. to consider the release of the POW's; 3. to soon announce other resolutions that were agreed upon in this meeting; 4. to promote good relations with the neighboring [word indistinct] mother countries of the region; 5. to intensify cooperation and coordination between the two sides.

The two sides assured the Sudanese public that the realization of peace is not far. These two sides believe that the Sudanese people are capable of attaining peace without outside intervention and of rebuilding our nation. The two sides think that the above resolutions will help hasten the toppling of the notorious national Islamic Front dictatorship in the Sudan and restoring justice, freedom, human dignity, and democracy.

SPLA Commentary Cites Peace Process Rejection

EA0201074891 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Radio commentary]

[Text] The country today marks the 35th anniversary of independence which marks the pulling out of the colonial oppressors after a long struggle and brave resistance of the masses of the Sudanese people. Thirty-five years have ended, and yet our country is still far from achieving the goals for which a lot of brilliiant and patriotic sacrifices were made. The real independence of the country has remained unattained. The political, economic and social content of independence has remained an expression that there is a big crisis in our country. [sentence as heard]

This anniversary of our country's independence comes at a time when the Sudanese people have witnessed one and a half years of terror, oppression, and repression under the regime of the minority group of the national Islamic Front [NIF]. The ill-advised policies and practices followed during the period of colonialism and the minority cliques' self-interest neo-colonial policies and practices is evident in the economic and social backwardness, ignorance, poverty and disease the majority of our people are suffering from.

Indeed, the already appalling situation of our people has been aggravated over the last one and a half year by the NIF regime. It is extremely deplorable that the regime running the affairs of our country today is espousing slogans and program which do not aim at any national consensus and has vowed to destroy the unity of our people and our country.

This regime usurped power at a time when the various Sudanese political forces were making every effort to end the civil war raging in our country by exerting every effort to resolve the conflict in the country through dialogue involving all the political forces in the country at a national constitutional conference. The junta's usurpation of power on 30 June 1989 and its stopping of the wheels of peace which was running at the time of their coup, plunged the country yet far from realising its objectives and aspirations aimed at bringing about development, democracy and social justice. [sentence as heard]

It is common knowledge to the masses of the Sudanese people that the junta not only obstructed and stopped the peace process but does not want the attainment of peace in the country. This the junta did by objecting to the SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People Liberation Movement/Army] peace program at the Addis Ababa and Nairobi talks between the SPLM-SPLA and the junta's delegation, while presenting no peace program of its own at these talks. Furthermore, the junta rejected the latest peace initiative put forward by the USA—the American peace initiative. These are evidences of the arrogance and anti-people policies of the NIF.

The present regime organized a witch-hunt leading to mass dismissals in the civil service and the organized Armed Forces. Today, hundreds of prisoners of conscience are detained without charge or trial, and torture of detainees in the junta's (?ghost) houses continues.

As we mark this 35th anniversary of our country's independence at this difficult time in our country's history, the peace-loving Sudanese people have no other option, but to iron resolve, to struggle and end the reign of terror and complete dictatorship imposed on our people by the fundamentalist NIF forces of bigotry.

While wishing you best wishes in your struggle, we also take this opportunity to appeal to all forces of democracy and peace, to the oppressed and neglected, to the patriotic elements in the organized Armed Forces, to the Trade Unions and students to enhance a coordinated struggle against the dictatorial, oppressive, and repressive regime by all means possible. It is the unified and coordinated struggle of the forces of opposition against the present regime and the toppling of this regime that will usher our country into a peace that will open our new opportunities for prosperity in a new united and democratic Sudan.

Long live the SPLM-SPLA, long live the struggle of the Sudanese people. The struggle continues.

Religious Tax Used To Alleviate 'Food Gap'

EA0101200291 Khartoum National Unity Radio in English 1445 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] The Zakat [religious tax] Chamber has allowed the sum of 6 million pounds for boosting efforts to fill the food gap in northern Darfur region in overcoming malnutrition at Darfur region's schools, hospitals, prisons, said Zakat Chamber Secretary General Muhammad Ibrahim Muhammad al-Amin following [a] visit he made to Darfur recently. He indicated that his visit to Darfur was aimed at inspecting performances of undertakings affiliated to the Zakat Chamber in the region. Mr. al-Amin meanwhile declared [that] he contributed Sudanese pounds 200,000 for the religious classes, khalawi, in Darfur region. Al-Amin was accompanied by a number of chamber officials.

Japan Agrees To Provide Food Aid

EA0101065591 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Khartoum, 31 December (SUNA)—An agreement on Japanese food aid for Sudan for 1990-1991 was signed at the planning agency this morning. The Japanese aid is worth 420 million Japanese yen, which is about $3.2 million. The agreement was signed for Sudan by Mr. 'Abd al-Rahim Hamdi, the minister of finance and planning, and for Japan by the Japanese ambassador in Khartoum [words indistinct].

Tunisia

Karoui Gives Speech on 1991 Finance Law

LD3012153590 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The House of Representatives approved the finance law for 1991 at the end of the public debates on the state budget which took place inside the House of Representatives beginning 11 December. The House of Representatives listened to the closing speech by Mr. Hamed Karoui, the prime minister. We will review the main points of this speech. [passage omitted]

Karoui pointed out that the important funds allocated to the social sectors consecrate the social dimension of our policies and choices in this field. He also pointed out that 57 percent of the management funds were devoted to the social sectors and within these the education sector received 39 percent. He mentioned that all the funds allocated to the social (?changes) reach 929 million dinars and recalled the increases in salaries and wages which have been approved and the financial repercussions on the state budget resulting from them as the size of these increases reach 150 million dinars. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hamed Karoui affirmed that our economic choices are not dictated to us from abroad as the things imposed on us by the international financial institutions are the freezing of salaries, the return to real prices, and the cancellation of compensation. He said the comments written cannot make us doubt about our economic and social choices and even the one who criticizes us knows that the situation today is not that which prevailed in 1986. This is a reality which not only Tunisians know, but are established by the international circles which could not believe that the servicing of debts, in our country, does not exceed 21.8 percent of the current incomes.

He pointed out that the government [words indistinct] the agricultural sector which has benefited from a great effort as 18.8 percent of the funds of the budget of the (?second paragraph) were allocated to it. [passage omitted]

Ben Ali Sends Revolution Day Message to 'Arafat

LD0101131491 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1230 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Tunis, 1 Jan (TAP)—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Palestine revolution, President Zine el-Abadine Ben Ali has cabled [PLO leader] Yasir 'Arafat saying:

On the occasion of the dear Palestinian people's commemoration of the anniversary of their blessed revolution, I have the pleasure of conveying to you our most sincere congratulations and hopes praying to God Almighty to continue to bestow success on you so that you may continue to lead the heroic struggle of your staunch people with all their factions for the retrieval of their usurped rights and the raising of the Palestinian flag proudly and highly.

I seize this happy occasion to renew to your brothers and to all sons of the fraternal Palestinian people in all their positions of struggle Tunisia's firm and absolute backing for your legitimate struggle against the forces of repression and oppression, and to greet your honorable steadfastness which will be crowned with victory, God willing.

Bahrain

Canadian Associate Defense Minister Arrives

NC3112191990 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Manama, 31 Dec (WAKH)—Canadian Associate National Defense Minister Mary Collins arrived in Manama this evening on a visit to Bahrain. During her stay, she will hold talks with senior officials on the current situation in the Gulf region and issues of mutual interest. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Receives Vice President Quayle

LD0101155391 London KUNA in Arabic 1515 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Al-Ta'if, 1 Jan (KUNA)—His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, received this afternoon U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and the delegation accompanying him. Mr. Quayle conveyed President George Bush and the American people's greetings to His Highness the Amir and the Kuwaiti people.

In return, his highness asked Mr. Quayle to convey to the U.S. President and the American people his greetings and best wishes for the New Year. The two sides also discussed the latest developments in the Gulf arena. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Rejects Concessions to Iraq

LD0201142691 London KUNA in Arabic 1305 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Tokyo, 2 Jan (KUNA)—The deputy Kuwaiti prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, has expressed his strong opposition to making any concessions for the sake of achieving a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis, which the Iraqi regime sparked off by occupying the State of Kuwait on 2 August.

In a press statement published here today, the Kuwaiti minister said that his government will not give away one inch of Kuwaiti territory to Iraq, pointing out that the aggressor should not be rewarded for his aggression.

He said that the United Nations Security Council resolutions on the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait "do not recognize any partial withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait."

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad affirmed that the Kuwaiti Government will bring pressure to bear on the Baghdad regime to persuade it to pay reparations for the losses Iraq has caused to Kuwait since its treacherous aggression on 2 August.

He stressed that Kuwait "hopes a peaceful end can be found for the crisis" which Iraq has created and that "the situation may escalate into war" after 15 January, the date fixed by the United Nations Security Council for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from all the Kuwaiti territory.

No Surrender of Any Territory

OW0201050691 Tokyo KYODO in English 0436 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Al-Ta'if, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 2 KYODO—Kuwait's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister al-Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al- Sabah on Tuesday expressed opposition to making concessions for a peaceful settlement of the Persian Gulf crisis.

In an interview with KYODO NEWS SERVICE in al-Ta'if in western Saudi Arabia, al-Sabah vowed that his government will not surrender any part of its territory to Iraq for a peaceful solution of the crisis, saying, "The United Nations Security Council resolutions concerning the Gulf crisis do not acknowledge any partial pullout of Iraqi troops from Kuwait."

Al-Sabah said that he will welcome mediating efforts by the European Community and the Arab nations, but added that those conciliatory moves should be made in line with the U.N. resolutions.

The foreign minister also said that the exiled Kuwaiti Government will press Baghdad to pay compensation for the sufferings Iraq has inflicted on the oil-rich emirate since the August 2 invasion.

In early December, the British newspaper, "THE INDEPENDENT", reported that the exiled rulers of Kuwait have secretly negotiated with Iraq and offered to allow Baghdad 99-year leases on the islands of Warba and Buiyan, and Iraq's full control of the Rumailah oilfield.

Al-Sabah said the exiled Kuwaiti Government hopes for a peaceful settlement of the crisis, but the situation may escalate into war after the January 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council resolution, as Iraq may face retaliatory military action by U.N. members if it does not withdraw from Kuwait by that date.

The emir of Kuwait and his exiled government have been living in al-Ta'if since fleeing Kuwait after the Iraqi invasion.

Envoy to Washington Interviewed on Crisis

PM0201092691 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Dec 90 p 3

[Interview with Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti ambassador to the United States, by Muhammad Sadiq in Washington; date not given: "Kuwaiti Ambassador to Washington Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: World Has Transcended Principle of Complete Withdrawal and Entered Phase of Ending Occupation"]

[Excerpts] [Sadiq] How would you view and assess the U.S. position in the light of recent developments, the efforts exerted to end the crisis, and the reported criticisms of the U.S. position?

[Al-Sabah] In brief, my view of how this crisis will be resolved by the U.S. side is that the U.S. position is totally clear. From the viewpoint of action and responsibility, the declared U.S. position has been clear, resolute, determined, and responsible ever since the invasion of Kuwait started. To those who heed so-called experts on the crisis or some of what has been written or stated by the media—critical or dismissive of the U.S. position—I would like to emphasize from a position of responsibility that all these views carry no political weight vis-a-vis the prevailing opinion within the U.S. Administration or Congress.

It is natural for there to be views criticizing ways of securing a solution. But there is total consensus on the desired objective—the complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwaiti territory and implementation of the 12 Security Council resolutions. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] At the Arab level efforts are being made to achieve the nonexistent Arab solution. I mean...

[Al-Sabah] (Interrupts) The Arab solution exists in the Cairo summit resolutions issued on 10 August. That is the Arab solution adopted at the Cairo summit. It is very clear. So anyone who claims to be searching for an Arab solution is mistaken. This is because the Arab solution is clear in the summit resolutions, which are similar to the Security Council resolutions. All that is needed now is to implement the resolutions unanimously agreed by the Arab states. The Arab states participating in the allied forces in the region are clear evidence and conspicuous affirmation of the Cairo summit resolutions. This is the Arab solution and the world solution.

[Sadiq] I mean the Arab attempts to secure a solution, the latest being by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid.

[Al-Sabah] That is unacceptable. There is no willingness to do that, whether by the Kuwaiti Government or by the allied states. We will under no circumstances accept any such initiative.

If there are any initiatives that deserve consideration with a view to reaching a peaceful solution—that is, entailing complete implementation of the Security Council resolutions and the Cairo summit resolutions—they should be presented to the Arab League, because that is the only forum that can discuss it. So let them be presented to the Arab League for implementation. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] That leads us to the principal question which will continue to be raised: War or peace? Will implementation be carried out peacefully or by military force?

[Al-Sabah] Anything is possible: a peaceful solution is a possibility, as is a solution based on military force. As we—together with the world as a whole and the U.S. Administration—have stated on several occasions, it is up to Saddam Husayn. So if he wants a peaceful solution, he can withdraw completely and comply with the UN Security Council resolutions. But if he remains intransigent in his rejection of the resolutions and Arab and international law, then military confrontation is possible—at any moment, too. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] What about what the reports concerning surprises and a possible change on Saddam Husayn's part, such as a partial withdrawal or compromise solutions?

[Al-Sabah] Let me state openly and clearly so that nobody will be in any doubt: Talks are out of the question, as is the concession of a single inch of Kuwaiti territory. This position is totally clear. From what I have sensed officially—and this is not the position of my government alone, but the position of our brothers in the Arab world and the U.S. position, in the first place—talks are out of the question, as is the concession of a single inch of Kuwaiti territory. The resolute and final demand is for a complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

We have transcended the complete withdrawal principle and are currently talking about the issues of compensation and other issues concerning chemical weapons, biological weapons, Iraq's nuclear weapons program, and the verification of Iraq's military capability—matters that cannot easily be overlooked or dismissed.

We are discussing these seriously now. We are discussing the post-withdrawal phase, regardless of whether the withdrawal is secured peacefully or by force. This confirms that there is no room for negotiations on a partial withdrawal or a partial solution, because that does not represent an implementation of the Security Council resolutions. All our allies share this view with us.

[Sadiq] But what about Baker's warning about a partial withdrawal? If that takes place, do you believe that the military option will remain a possibility?

[Al-Sabah] On the basis of my contacts with President Bush and his senior aides, I emphasize that the clear and unambiguous position is that Iraq cannot retain a single inch of Kuwaiti territory and that the Security Council resolutions must be implemented. Iraq must understand that. That was the aim behind the call for Tariq 'Aziz to visit Washington and Baker to go to Baghdad. That was the purpose: to inform the Iraqi leadership of this. Even after a complete withdrawal, work will continue on maintaining the embargo against Iraq until all resolutions on compensation and the other issues that I mentioned to have been implemented. [passage omitted]

[Sadiq] What about the Kuwaiti forces' role in a military confrontation if, God forbid, that happens?

[Al-Sabah] The Kuwaiti forces have been reorganized on the frontline on the Saudi-Kuwaiti lines. There are camps for training volunteers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the sister Gulf states. The Kuwaiti Air Force

is now complete, the land forces are about to complete their capabilities, and we are still receiving large numbers of volunteers whom we are equipping. [passage omitted]

Minister Views U.S.-Iraq Dialogue

LD3112172590 London KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Paris, 31 December (KUNA)—Shaykh Nasir Muhammad al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, has stated that the U.S. initiative for starting a direct dialogue with Iraq is intended as an expression of goodwill for achieving a peaceful solution and for exposing Baghdad's aggressive intentions.

In an interview with the magazine 'AL-DAWLIYAH' [THE INTERNATIONAL], Shaykh Nasir said that U.S. President George Bush proposed his initiative for a direct dialogue between the United States and Iraq at foreign minister level concerning UN Security Council Resolution No. 678 which calls on Iraq to implement all the Council's earlier resolutions, which provide for Iraq's complete and unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

He added that President Bush announced his initiative in order to express the international community's sincere desire for a peaceful settlement and to expose Iraq's aggressive intentions.

Asked about the withdrawal of U.S. diplomats from Kuwait, Shaykh Nasir said: "We know well the extent of the hardships suffered by the embassies inside Kuwait as a result of cutting of water, power and food supplies." He added that some of the foreign embassies responded rapidly to the decision of the invading authorities to leave Kuwait, while other embassies stood fast against the decision. He added that some embassies were stormed and that the U.S. Embassy stood far for four months.

Shaykh Nasir said that the U.S. decision to evacuate its citizens and its diplomats from Kuwait while keeping its embassy there open provides proof of its refusal to recognize the decision of the invading Iraqi authorities.

He affirmed that the hostage crisis stemmed from the principal crisis—Iraq's occupation of Kuwait—and that the Iraqi regime tried to use the hostage crisis as a means of wasting time and diverting people's attention from the principal crisis and the acts of murder, looting, and rape committed by the occuaption authorities inside Kuwait.

As to the recent Asian tour, Shaykh Nasir said that its purpose was to represent His Highness the Amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, at the enthronement of Emperor Akihito.

He said that the Japanese Government withdrew the invitation it had extended to the Iraqi regime to attend these celebrations, which were attended by representatives of all world countries, and this withdrawal of invitation provided a clear and open proof of Japan's stand against the Iraqi aggression and in suport of Kuwaiti legitimacy.

Shaykh Nasir added that he carried messages to the leaders and heads of states of New Zealand, Australia, Brunei, Singapore and the Kingdom of Bhutan expressing Kuwait's thanks for these countries' stances toward the treacherous Iraqi aggression.

He added that he also carried a verbal message from Kuwaiti heir apparent and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah to Malaysian Prime Minister Mohamad Bin Mahathir.

Official Newspaper Resumes Publication

LD2812212290 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1856 GMT 28 Dec 90

[From the "State of Kuwait Television Message" program]

[Text] Dear viewers, here follows a statement on the resumption of publication of the AL-KUWAIT AL-YAWM paper:

After a stoppage of more than four months, the official paper AL-KUWAIT AL-YAWM has resumed publication. It includes all amiri instructions, laws, and decrees which have been issued since the treacherous Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait.

Radio Kuwait To Transmit From Cairo

LD0101204191 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 2052 GMT 2 Jan 91

[From the 'State of Kuwait Television Message']

[Text] Radio Kuwait begins today, Tuesday, transmission from Cairo for three hours daily, to cover Kuwait's just cause and developments in the Arab Gulf. Transmission will begin at 2000 and last until 2300, in accordance with an information protocol signed in mid-December by the minister of state for the affairs of the consultative council, Minister of Information Dr. Badr Jasim al- Y'aqub, and Egyptian Information Minister, Safwar al-Sharif.

Qatar

Canadian Official, Delegation Arrive 1 Jan

NC0101160691 Manama WAKH in English 1338 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 1 Jan (WAKH)—Canada's Associate Minister of National Defence Mary Collins arrived here today at the head of a delegation for a two-day visit to Qatar.

The Canadian minister was received by the military secretary at the Qatari Defence Ministry, Col. Ahmad Bin-Salih al-Manayi' and Canadian charge d'affairs here, S. Benet.

Foreign Minister Receives Canadian, Somali Officials

NC0201122391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1125 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 2 Jan (WAKH)—Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir conferred here today with Mary Collins, Canadian associate minister of national defense, who is currenty visiting Doha. The current situation in the Gulf and a number of issues of common interest were discussed during the meeting.

Minister al-Khatir also met today with Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed Ali Aden, who is currently visiting here. They discussed ways of promoting bilateral relations between the two countries as well as the current situation in the Gulf as a result of the Iraqi aggression against the State of Kuwait.

Amir Receives Message From Somali President

NC0201122991 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1135 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Doha, 2 Jan (WAKH)—Qatar's Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani has received a written message from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre. Somali Foreign Minister Mohamed 'Ali Aden delivered the message during a meeting with the amir of Qatar here today in the presence of Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir.

The QATARI NEWS AGENCY has reported that the message deals with the latest developments in Somalia and the Gulf crisis resulting from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and Somalia's stand in support of the resolutions of the Arab League and the Security Council, which call for Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of Kuwait's legitimacy under His Highness Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The message also concerns ways to promote bilateral relations between the two countries. The Somali minister arrived in Doha yesterday.

Amir Receives Outgoing German Ambassador

NC2912110090 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1035 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Doha, 29 Dec (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani this morning received Dr. Hans-Lothar Steppan, German ambassador to Qatar, who called on his highness the amir to bid him farewell at the end of his tour in Qatar. [passage omited]

Saudi Arabia

Cabinet Debates Budget, Gulf Expenses

LD3112202490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1735 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 31 Dec (SPA)—The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd al-'Aziz al Sa'ud presided over the weekly Cabinet meeting at al-Yamamah Palace in Riyadh this afternoon.

Following the meeting, Saudi Minister of Information 'Ali al- Sha'ir made a statement to the Saudi News Agency (SPA) in which he said: At the beginning of today's meeting, the custodian of the two holy mosques spoke about the results of the 11th GCC Summit Conference which was held at Doha in sisterly Qatar last week. [passage omitted]

After that, the Cabinet reviewed the current events in the Arab Gulf and listened to a comprehensive evaluation of the Arab and international attitudes toward the Arab Gulf crisis from the king. [passage omitted]

He also briefed the Cabinet on the nature of the talks he had yesterday evening with U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle and members of his delegation.

In this regard, King Fahd praised the constant and true stands adopted by the fraternal and friendly countries on the side of justice and right by their continued insistance on the need for ending the oppression and treacherous occupation committed by the ruler of Iraq against the fraternal State of Kuwait.

Minister al-Sha'ir added: Within the framework of the Cabinet's constant concern for the Palestine question and its following of its course, the Cabinet reviewed the 29 December repressive actions against the Palestinian people which led to the falling of a number of martyrs among them.

The Cabinet expressed its complete denunciation of the violations committed by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied Palestinian territories and their prevention of the Palestinians from exercising their right to legitimate rejection of the occupation and to defend their lands.

The Cabinet urged all peace- and freedom-loving countries and the entire international community to stand by the Palestinian people represented in their state and to support their legitimate struggle, help preserve their Arab and Islamic identity and the retrieval of their rights—including their right to return to their homeland—and to establish their independent state in their land and to determine their own fate.

The Saudi information minister added: In light of the above, the Cabinet issued the following statement:

The treacherous Iraqi aggression on the fraternal State of Kuwait and its threatening of the Saudi territory has led to the concentration of the efforts and financial resources on dealing with these extraordinary conditions with a view to bolstering the military capabilities or to strengthening the internal public utilities and services in addition to the additional expenditure on the services and supplies needed by the presence of the fraternal and friendly forces.

Although the temporary increase in the prices and production of the oil has helped to meet these internal and unforeseen expenses, the size of these unforeseen expenses has been bigger than the increase in the additional oil revenues.

With approach of the annual date for the preparation of the general state budget for the fiscal year 1991 and with the continuation of the current situation which resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and its threat to the Saudi territory, the government of the custodian of the two holy mosques decided, as a result of its appraisal of the situation, that the conditions in the world oil markets does not permit the preparation of a realistic estimate of the oil revenues for the coming fiscal year on which the expenditures are based, due to the difficulty in forecasting the factors that affect the levels of production and prices during the next 12 months which constitute the fiscal year.

Furthermore, it is also difficult to determine the level and nature of the internal expenditures needed for facing the extraordinary conditions.

In accordance with Article 37 of the Council of Minister's Statute stipulating the postponment of the state's general budget in case of compelling reasons, it has been decided to continue to work by the budget of the current fiscal year 1990 for the period necessary to face up to the emergency circumstances.

While the council announces this to the citizens, it would like stipulate that the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques dictate laying down the rules of expenditures for the coming months according to the the following bases:

First: Provisions relating to the monthly and annual salaries and allowances continue to be applied according to the rules and dates of pay of the current fiscal year.

Second: Provisions relating to local subsidies expenditures earmarked in the current fiscal year's budget continue to apply such as the agricultural subsidy, food stuffs, electricity, and animal feed subsidies, and social security and similar assistance.

Third: The agricultural, real estate, and industrial lending funds continue to work as they are current doing without any change in their rules.

Fourth: The financing of projects and existing working contracts continues.

Fifth: All other dues whether they were to national or foreign companies or individuals will be settled on time.

Minister al-Sha'ir concluded his statement saying that on the suggestion of the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, the council agreed on the appointment of Mr. 'Abdallah Bin-Ibrahim al- Hadidthi and 'Umar Bin-Mis'id al-Bawardi as two members to the board of directors of the General Establishment for Petroleum and Minerals, for a period of three years.

Spokesman Denies Report on Khashoggi Mediation

LD0101131791 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1210 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Jan (SPA)—An official spokesman has made a statement to SPA in which he said: AFP yesterday evening quoted a spokesman of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) as saying that Saudi businessman Adnan Khashoggi has taken part in Palestinian-Arab-Israeli contacts.

The source added: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has no knowledge at all of the French agency's report and, for its part, has not asked anybody to carry out any contacts or negotiations of this sort with anyone, as the agency claimed in quoting its sources.

The spokesman concluded, saying: The honorable stands which have been taken and are still being taken by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in support of the Palestinian cause and the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights are too well known, and the one who best know these facts are the Palestinian leaders themselves since the establishment of Fatah movement until the creation of the Palestinian state. We attach no weight to those who attempt to stir suspicion about these firm stands.

'Source' Says Position on Kuwait Unchanged

LD0101131591 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1225 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Jan (SPA)—Replying to questions by some news agencies' correspondents about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's position toward the Arab Gulf crisis following current new developments, a responsible source has stated the following to SPA:

The Kingdom continues to adhere to the position it has repeatedly declared, which consists of its constant demand for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory; the restoration of legitimacy under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the amir of the State of Kuwait, and his government; the withdrawal of the Iraqi hordes stationed on the borders of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; and the return of conditions to what they were before.

Concluding, the source said: This is the position of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We still believe that it is still possible for President Saddam Husayn to end this crisis in accordance with the Arab, Islamic, and international resolutions in response to the calls of international circles and peace-loving countries.

United Arab Emirates

Canadian Defense Official Arrives on Visit

NC0201160791 Manama WAKH in English 1522 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Dubayy, Jan 2 (WAKH)—Canadian Associate Minister of National Defence Mary Collins arrived here today on a visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates].

She was received by UAE Defence Ministry Undersecretary Brigadier Shaykh Muhammad 'Ubayd al-Maktum and a number of senior officers.

National Council Approves 1991 Budget

JN2912191190 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 26 Dec 90 p 1

[Text] In its session yesterday under the chairmanship of second Deputy Speaker Dr. Salim al-Mahmud, the Federal National Council approved the federal draft law on the state's general budget for 1991. The budget amounts to 15,645,419,000 dirhams—an increase of 6.8 percent over last year's estimates. The Council also approved supplementary budget plans and decided to forward them to the Higher Federal Council for adoption in pursuance of Article 129 of the Constitution.

Ministry Reports on Arab Development Funds

NC3012181590 Manama WAKH in English 1610 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Dec 30 (WAKH)—The UAE's [United Arab Emirate] contribution to the capital of Arab and regional development funds amounted to U.S. dollars 873.8 million constituting 7.3 percent of the total fund capitals of dlrs 14.3 billion of which dlrs 13.1 billion was paid up to December 1989, according to a report issued today by the UAE Ministry of Finance and Industry.

The report said the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states' participation, as a group, reached dlrs 6.84 billion or 56.3 percent of the consolidated fund capitals.

The report also showed that the UAE's participation in such funds was as follows: dlrs 95.8 million in the Arab Development Fund, dlrs 73.5 million in the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), dlrs 187.8 million in the Islamic Development Bank, dlrs 105.3 million in the OPEC fund, dlrs 35.5 million in the International Fund for Agricultural Development, dlrs 258.9 million in the Gulf Development Authority in Egypt and dlrs 127.8 million in the Arab Bank for Development in Africa.

The ministry report affirmed that the funds have played a distinguished role in financing infrastructure projects in Arab countries in addition to productive projects in those countries, and thus helped improve the Arab investment atmosphere.

The Arab and regional development funds also helped in attracting additional financing to Arab states and in bridging the financing gap through joint financing operations, the report said.

It said financing operations extended by the funds to Arab countries covered loans totalling over dlrs 5.6 billion and balance of payment adjustments amounting to dlrs 4.5 billion.

Yemen

Salih Visits Ta'izz, Inaugurates Electricity Plant

JN2912150190 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today visited the county of al-Misrah in the Governorate of Ta'izz. [passage omitted]

The masses of al-Misrah and neighboring counties came to show how happy they were with the visit of the brother chairman and members of the Presidential Council to inspect the situation of the citizens and find out their concerns firsthand. They chanted slogans declaring pride and appreciation for the interest shown by the leaders of the homeland in following up on the affairs of the citizens through direct meetings with the masses whose objective is to find out about their real concerns and to become informed of the problems and difficulties of the development and services projects in their districts and to thus deal with all problems in a spirit of responsibility, removing all obstacles constraining and hampering the citizen from contributing constructively and participating positively in the national and developmental growth process. [passage omitted]

After arriving in the country's headquarters amid the cheers of the masses, the chairman of the Presidential Council inaugurated an electric power station in the county of al-Misrah. [passage omitted]

Group Protests 'Aggression' Against 'Peace Ship'

EA3012130690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] The Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity has denounced the brutal and barefaced aggression perpetrated by the American and British forces, positioned in the Arab Gulf to encircle the fraternal Iraqi people, against the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon, which is carrying peace activists, women and children, and milk and medicine for Iraqi children. The Council also denounced the vicious attack on the ship by helicopters and its detention by a number of aircraft carriers and battleships of the American and Atlantic forces, without any justification given other than obstruction of the humanitarian ship, Ibn Khaldoon, which is carrying a message appealing to countries of the whole world to secure a just and comprehensive peace for the Gulf region and the

Middle East and to avert the option of solving the crisis by military means, and which is calling for innocent children, women, and elderly people to be saved from certain catastrophe if war should break out.

The statement, which was issued by the Council in Sanaa, says it is the aim of the American and the British forces that their brutal (?action) should abort any peaceful initiative and kill the hopes which the peace and security council is striving to achieve in the world. At the end of its statement, the Yemeni Council for Peace and Solidarity appealed to all peace-loving forces, the UN, and its entire organization to strive for the release of the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon so that she may accomplish her humanitarian mission achieve a just peace in the region.

General Staff Chief Returns From Moscow

EA3012213490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Staff Brigadier 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, the chief of the General Staff [CGS], and his accompanying delegation returned to Sanaa today from Moscow after a visit of several days to the Soviet Union. During the visit he held talks with a number of Soviet officials on strengthening relations between the countries in the military field.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, the brother CGS said that during the visit he had delivered a letter from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali Abdullah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, on Yemeni-Soviet relations. These relations have witnessed consistent development in the context of the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between the two countries and their mutual desire for the continued development of those relations to serve the joint interests of each country and to serve efforts to bring peace to the world.

Presidential Council Reviews 1990, Other Issues

EA0101132191 Aden Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] The Presidential Council held its regular meeting this morning at the Republican Palace in the economic and commercial capital, Aden, under the chairmanship of the brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdullah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. The meeting discussed a number of topics in its agenda.

At the beginning of the meeting, the brother president offered congratulations to members of the council on the new year, pointing out that the year 1990 saw the achievement of Yemeni unity as the greatest historic achievement realized by our Yemeni people at the end of this century. He hoped that the year 1991, the beginning of the last decade of the 20th Century, would be a year of peace and development and the creation of amicable relations between peoples and nations. He hoped the year would ward off from the region, and the whole of humanity, the dangers of wars and fighting whose drums were being beaten by colonialist and zionist circles. He wished our Yemeni people and our Arab nation, on the occasion of the new year, more prosperity and progress.

The council reviewed in its meeting a nubmer of issues including the activities of the President and his deputy and members of the Presidential Council during the previous week and the results of the field visits they paid to the governorates. The council considered the nature of the living and supply conditions being witnessed by the country these days. It instructed the government to concern itself with following up the development plans in the different sectors and governorates. It also considered the debates of the Council of Deputies and the council's directives to the government.

The council also considered the agreement opposed to torture and other forms of treatment such as cruel, inhuman, or unprofessional punishments. The council also considered the condition of the economic and commercial capital, Aden, and stressed the need to be concerned about its condition and development befitting its status and its historic importance.

Committee Set Up for Plebiscite on Constitution

JN3112081490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Presidential Council decision No. 22 of 1990 was issued yesterday. The decision pertains to the setting up of a higher committee to oversee the plebiscite on the Republic of Yemen Constitution under the chairmanship of Brother Dr. 'Abdallah Husayn Barakat, Advisory Council member. The committee will be composed of the following brothers: Salih Munassir al-Siyayli, minister of expatriates' affairs; Muhammad Sa'id 'Abdallah, minister of local administration; Isma'il al-Wazir, minister of legal affairs; 'Abd-al-Wasi' Sallam, justice minister; and Colonel Ghalib Mutahhar al-Ghamish, minister of interior and security.

The second clause in the decision stipulates that the committee shall be charged with preparing for and overseeing the plebiscite on the Republic of Yemen Constitution, as well as any other tasks related to the plebiscite with which it may be charged by the Presidential Council.

Saddam Speech to Troops Criticizes Saudi Arabia

JN0101213491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Speech by President Saddam Husayn to "fighters" at "battlefront" on 31 December]

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—[passage omitted] We wish you further strength and pride. May God protect you and the Armed Forces from all unpleasant things.

We said where shall we go tonight, and we decided to go where the valiant Iraqi Armed Forces [are stationed]. Before you arrived, we were sitting with corps commanders. We were cooking. Iyad [not further identified] protested and said what if the presidential guard, the storytellers, and the Iraqis hear about this? We told him that "All the effluent is in the basin" [al-dafaq kulluh fi al-hawd]. But if we come here to cook and spend the night, things would be different; it would not be the same if you brought us ready food. Let us have dinner and talk later. Rely on God, and help yourselves.

How is the young men's determination? We have the same determination. Right supports its owners.

Every drop of blood—I do not want to say is equal to all bad people, because I cannot compare a virtuous drop of blood from an Iraqi with any gathering of bad people. What God wants is good.

May the Almighty protect us and protect Iraq against all evil. After all that has been said about history and the past, I do not think that some people can ignore what Iraq has contributed to humanity at a time when some people were living in caves like beasts. Nearly 6,000 years ago, Iraq taught mankind the alphabet, and nearly 4,500 years ago, it taught them law: Rights and duties; man's rights and his duties toward himself, his family, and his society as a whole. They imagine that by merely possessing the ability of technological expression, the ability to show their technology, which originated from Arab knowledge, they can encroach upon all humanity and mankind, not only Iraq.

Look how arrogant the U.S. Administration is. Only now it has started to deal with some people with a certain amount of regard for their feelings. This began after 2 August. But you know how it used to deal with others through microphones. They used to tell this or that state to pay a certain amount for the troops or send a certain number of troops.

Nonetheless, and despite the numerous nationalities and names, all they have been able to assemble is less than 14 ground divisions. Is that not right, Iyad? They came from America, France, England, Husni Mubarak, Fahd, the old Desert Shield and the new Desert Shield. They assembled 2,000 troops from here, 1,000 from there, 3,000 from a third place, and all they could come up with is less than 14 divisions; more than 13 ground divisions from 26 states.

We do not belittle anyone. The Almighty who sent Muhammad, the last of all prophets and messengers, wanted mankind to be capable—after the message entrusted to Muhammad, may God's peace and prayers be upon him—to manage their own affairs in accordance with the teachings of God's message.

A single individual is worthy of respect, after the Almighty and his prophets and messengers. We absolutely do not belittle anyone. However, when they belittle Iraq—and we said that a long time ago, 20 years ago—the Iraqis, no matter how many they number, are stronger than anyone who tries to abuse them and are greater in number than the greatest country in the world. As for the human side, the Iraqi, in our view, is equal to any other good human being. Only the Almighty can judge this. But to anyone who abuses us, we say that we are far taller than you are.

Therefore, when they say that they will deploy 100,000 fighters, we immediately said that we will deploy a quarter of a million. And the one quarter million fighters have arrived at the front. But the 100,000 have not been completed. Why? Because we are on our land. Kuwait is our land and they stole it. And this is sufficient. They stole Kuwait to establish an example of evil to corrupt not only the people of the Kuwait Governorate but to corrupt all Iraq through the example of corruption, and to penetrate, in addition to this, the spiritual and moral fiber of the nation as a whole. They sought to destroy all its values and destroy its future through this example and the examples you know. This example concerns us as one family.

Almighty God has established a responsibility for man within the one family and established a responsibility for man toward society. As far as the one family is concerned, we do not accept those who were playing in Kuwait. Although it was cut from our body and our soul, we do not agree that Kuwait should be made into a center of sabotage for the nation and for Iraq.

Look at those despicable ones, whom we hailed and praised in order to offer a small assistance to your kinfolk and people in the occupied territories, who are resisting oppression and injustice with stones. They found it hard to offer assistance of millions of dollars or tens of millions of dollars.

After the Baghdad summit and despite all that was said at the summit, we began to telephone each one of them to pursuade them to assist Jordan and the people of the occupied territories. We saw their hands go stiff when it came to paying money for a good cause, because they do not want good to prosper. Look how much they are paying now. Fahd used to say over the telephone: Remember the Baghdad summit. He is speaking about the Baghdad summit. He remembers that in 1978 Saddam Husayn went to Saudi Arabia and urged him to pay money to the people on the direct confrontation line with Israel to stand fast. Iraq said we first pay $500 million. He remembers this; he remembers that we asked

them in the Baghdad summit to pay to the Arabs, not to Iraq—to Jordan, the PLO, our people in the occupied territories, and Syria. For nothing else, but in line with the sublime principles in which we believe.

Therefore, he was so "furious" about us, he told his interlocutor on the telephone: Do you remember? Some say he [King Fahd] was talking with the Shaykh of Qatar; others say it was the voice of Shaykh Zayid. At any rate, the party on the other line is not the one who is concerned. It is Fahd who is concerned. Do you remember, he told him, when at the Baghdad summit they milked us? This is the new milking taking place. It is now taking place in Hafar al-Batin.

Preliminary estimates of the cost of deployment increases daily. According to the latest estimate that I read two weeks ago, they are being asked to pay $37 billion. They will offer this money willingly, because it is part of the treason, vileness, and disgrace. This is the milking taking place in Hafar al-Batin.

Billions are being paid from the wealth of the Saudi people and the wealth of the nation. For what? At the beginning he [King Fahd] was pleading here and there because he was afraid that the Iraqis would attack him after Kuwait. See how the fearful and the traitor knows himself? He could have spared the nation all danger. Before 2 August we used to run after him and he used to pretend to be concerned and opposed to the conduct of the rulers of Kuwait. We explained to him the criminal action they were undertaking to wreck Iraq's economy and consequently to humiliate its people and army as part of the role assigned to them by America and Zionism, which began to fight us in 1986 through the plots uncovered by God. These plots were carried out by America and Zionism.

He said: I am with you. We told him: Let us hold a quadripartite conference so we can to talk face-to-face so, perhaps, we could avoid the things to which they were clearly pushing. He did not agree to a quadripartite summit conference. I said to him: Let us hold a summit—myself, you, Jabir, and Shaykh Zayid. He said let an oil ministers' meeting be held. W; agreed to the oil ministers meeting. (?I talked) to one of them. God helped us with obtaining a recorded tape. He said: I am afraid that you are asleep, and did not hear or see. Here is Fahd who used to tell you that he did not approve of Kuwait's behavior. Note how he is "furious" about us and how he is talking about what happened in 1987. Did we put money in our pockets in 1987? Dignity is for all of you. When the Arabs face the foreigners united as one, they will be dignified. The foreigner is occupying Palestine and Jerusalem. However, he [King Fahd] was furious and asked: Do you remember how they milked us? Why should we milk you? This is the milking taking place by America and its followers. Meanwhile, millions of people in the world are starving. For the good people, the entire world is one human family. Starvation of man is unacceptable.

America dumps wheat in the sea so as not to give it to people to eat and not die of starvation. Fahd and his likes spent billions on the training of foreign troops who have come to Hafar al-Batin. Why did they come to Hafar al-Batin? Fahd brought them to attack Iraq. Shame on him for seeking the protection of American women. The Saudi people do not accept that. The Saudi people are Arab like you; chivalrous and do not accept being protected by American women who have come to desecrate the land of the message. Fahd, however, accepts that because he brought them to practice treason along with the men who came with them to attack Iraq. However, God willing, if he commits this mistake, he and those who stand with him will bite their fingers in regret until doomsday.

He will see that the faithful men of Iraq are not the kind who will be defeated by American women, nor by American men or any other people, no matter who they are.

On the spot, 18 million people massed 60 divisions. However, 400, 500, or even 700 millions could only assemble less than 14 ground divisions.

This is the faithful people. They are all fighters, from the eight-year-old child to the 70-year-old woman. They are all ready to fight to defend the right and the sublime values until God brings us the better, God willing.

Convey my greetings to the men. May God protect you and spare you anything that might harm you. Whatever harms you harms us. These are men whose building took tears and wakeful nights for over 22 years until their cultural and human aspects were developed. It is not easy for us to see any of them get hurt. However, for the sake of what God wants and wishes, we are all fedayeen so that the flag of the right is raised and the values of the holy message, which was regrettably desecrated by the treasonous lowly people, can be upheld.

God's greetings to you. Convey our greetings to the men. May God protect you. Happy new year. Now it is midnight. You know that we spend days and hours at work except the time that man needs for rest. We said that the best place to spend New Year's Eve is with the fighters cooking our own dinner. Thank God. May God please our hearts with you so that the homeland can have pride in you and the nation acquires more capability with your efforts. God willing, we can restore our nation's rights and liberate Palestine so that you can see it with your own eyes, God willing.

Right is right. God helps on the right.

God's greetings to the men. Happy New Year.

Up to 750,000 Troops Reportedly on Saudi Border

AU0101205291 Paris AFP in English 2038 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Paris, Jan 1 (AFP)—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's announcement that his Army has massed 60 divisions along the Saudi border means some 700,000 to

750,000 Iraqi soldiers are probably in the region, according to latest Western estimates, notably from U.S. sources.

Military hardware already in the region was believed to include 4,000 tanks, 2,500 light armoured vehicles (infantry combat vehicles or troop transport vehicles), and 2,700 artillery pieces.

U.S. Defense Department analysts estimate almost half of the arsenal is in Kuwait.

Observers believe most of the reinforcements are infantry divisions made up of reservists, and units from the so-called People's Army, or Ba'th Party militia. They are not believed to have heavy artillery.

The Iraqi Army mobilised the bulk of its tanks and armoured vehicles in the region some time ago.

'Aziz Urges UN Chief To Help in Ship Affair

JN3112193290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1903 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar dealing with the continued detention of the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon by American and British forces.

Mr. Tariq 'Aziz asked the UN secretary general to have the letter circulated among the Security Council members as a council document.

The following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency:

As a follow-up to the letter I sent you on 27 December 1990 dealing with the barbaric act of aggression perpetrated by U.S. and British naval forces against the peace ship Ibn Khaldoon, I hereby inform you that the vessel is still being detained by the said forces outside Omani territorial waters.

Despite an acute shortage of drinking and cleaning water on board the ship, the American authorities have refused to allow it to be provided with water by Omani authorities, thus adding another criminal act to their record of inhuman aggression against the peace ship and its women and children passengers.

My government is still awaiting the urgent measures I asked from you in my said letter. Given your moral responsibility under the charter, your personal intervention would now assume more importance than at any time in the past.

Please accept my highest regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz

Deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq

[Dated] Baghdad, 31 December 1990

Kurdistan Party Issues New Year Statement

JN0101130991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1142 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi Kurdistan Revolutionary Party has stressed that the imperialist-Zionist invasion of the Gulf and the Arabian Peninsula is not aimed only against Iraq, but against the Arabs and their history, civilization, present, future, and existence.

In a statement issued here today on the New Year, the party said that the invasion plan seeks to support and back the Zionist enemy and to give it a free hand to perpetrate the most hideous crimes and terrorism against the Palestinian people and annihilate them; expand at the expense of the Arab nation; strike at the center of its force and capability, represented by Iraq, with the objective of restoring the fascist Zionist supremacy over the Arabs; fulfill Zionist dreams; and make Greater Israel's borders extend from the Nile to the Euphrates. The party added that the invasion also seeks to occupy Arab oilfields, fragment the pan-Arab liberation movement, and establish imperialist military bases in the region.

The Kurdistan Revolutionary Party expressed regret over the USSR's retreat from its principled support of the people struggling against imperialism, fascism, and colonialist forces. It said that the United States is now playing the role of the leader of terrorism in the world, and that it has released its tools to threaten and to beat the drums of war after neutralizing the USSR, which has lost its position in the international balance, accepted to become a satellite of the U.S. Administration, and turned its back on the slogans of peaceful coexistence, national rights, and peoples' freedoms which it advocated for more than 70 years.

The party drew attention to the fact that the increasing number of Soviet Jews immigrating to occupied Palestine constitutes a serious threat to pan-Arab security and reinforces the Zionist scheme of establishing Greater Israel. The party praised President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative to tackle Middle East problems, especially since they are interrelated in cause and results. It urged the Arabs, the Muslims, and the forces struggling for peace to bolster their solidarity with Iraq and to apply pressure on the U.S. Administration to force it to withdraw its forces from the region, to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq, to resort to the negotiations option, to denounce war, and to release the peace messengers detained in the high seas on board the ship Ibn Khaldoon.

Editor Reacts to Mubarak Appeal to Saddam

JN3112213290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2037 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 31 Dec (INA)—Reacting to the letter addressed by Husni this evening, the INA Arab affairs correspondent writes:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Remember how the unbelievers plotted against thee, to

keep thee in bonds, or slay thee, or get thee out of thy home. They plot and plan, and God too plans, but the best of planners is God. [Koranic verses]

Having grown tired of talking, Bush and his aides have chosen for themselves a clown and liar to play the sly role on their behalf—one who speaks the language of the Arabs, imagining that we have not heard such talk issuing from hoarse throats from the White House and the rotten Western circles threatening Iraq and its people and bragging about the forces and navies they have assembled and are assembling on the land of the Arabs and their sanctities in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia].

We tell lightheaded Husni that, unlike him and his advisers, we are not ones to be intimidated by navies and hollow words proceeding from sick minds and written with pens of aberrants and those who have acquired ill-gotten property. Kuwait was part of Iraq in the past as it is now and will be in the future. It is the 19th governorate, and the now defunct corrupt and corrupting al-Sabah family is gone for ever, and the valiant Iraqis led by their hero Saddam Husayn are one will and heart standing in the face of the aggressor and invader occupiers of the heart of the message in Mecca and al-Madinah with rare valor and considerable courage and ability, which warms the hearts of all Arabs and depresses the traitors who have sold their consciences and national and pan-Arab honor to the Zionists and Americans.

Husni's talk about military expertise and his experience with wars only arouses pity for him. We draw attention to the fact that he asked those who wrote the speech for him to be brief. By mistake, he was handed three copies of the speech, and he read them all, wondering why it was such a long speech.

If you fear God, Husni, you will remember that Iraqis have long combat experience and are known for their battlefield heroism, and are principled people who have always stood for honorable and equitable peace. The voice coming from Egypt is not the voice of the son of the Nile. It is not the voice of the son of Egypt that has behind it a glorious history and a civilization. It is a discordant voice that echoes the rashness of the Americans and Zionists whose flag—thanks to this cacophonous voice—flutters above the Arab capital of Cairo, the Arab capital plagued by the likes of Husni and the loud buffoons.

The crocodile tears shed by Husni for those of us who fall as martyrs are to no avail, since martyrdom is the highest rung reached by the Iraqi and Arab individual, and short of that there is ignominy when your likes capitulate to the Zionists and the forces that want evil for this nation, trying to undermine its security and dignity and to steal its sanctities in Jerusalem and Mecca and al-Madinah. You are accursed as a clownish, corrupt, aberrant band—hands stained with the bribes of the oil people, and stomachs full of ill-gotten gains.

The Arab affairs correspondent in INA concluded by saying: The hour of delivery of you is at hand, God willing—when high winds will sweep you and leave none of you, and when the people and their will prevail, when their ranks are rid of you and your likes—the traitors to the nation and principles. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Men said to them: A great army is gathering against you: And frightened them: But it only increased their faith: They said: For us God sufficeth, and He is the best disposter of affairs. [Koranic verses]

AL-THAWRAH Says Nation Prepared for Combat

JN0201100291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has stressed that through its known capabilities, and along with it in one trench the faithful grouping, Iraq has completed its combat preparations to wage the great historical confrontation in the crucial battle so as to achieve great victory.

In its editorial today, the paper says: We confidently tell Bush and his administration and those who cooperate and ally themselves with him of the grouping of evil and aggression, that the results of confrontation will be against their wishes and wagering.

It adds: Millions of heroic fighters and hundreds of thousands of Iraqi, Arab, and Muslim fedayeen and the freemen in the world are waiting for the time of confrontation when the shouts of God is great will resound and when the forces of right and faith, that enjoy militant spirit, will go to the battlefields in all directions.

The paper attacked Bush and the plan to build the American strategy based on the possibility of drawing and designing a general framework for an international system commensurate with the balances of economic and military powers in which Washington would lead the world without having any rivals who would deprive it of its tyrannical position during the coming years after the United States has freed itself from the chains of the cold war.

The paper points out that after defining its strategy and objectives, the Bush administration has focused its attention on the Arab homeland due to the oil reserves in it, and that Washington is seeking to save the Zionist entity from the historical impasse it has reached after it lost all factors of its supremacy on which it has continued to survive after Iraq possessed the means of strategic deterrence. This is in addition to the fact that Washington is seeking to deprive the Arab nation of the elements of its strength and capability.

The paper stresses that Kuwait's return to the motherland was a strong shock to the U.S. Administration, and that it has come to foil all enemy wagering and calculations, to protect the nation's wealth from those who covet it, and to give Iraq access to the sea that will provide it with additional strength to protect its national and pan-Arab security.

Commentary Warns Bush of 'Overconfidence'

LD0101100191 Baghdad International Service in English 0230 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] President Bush told TIME magazine that he is not willing to sacrifice American lives in a confrontation in the Gulf. He also said he was confident he had chosen the right course in the Gulf crisis. He added that he had a gut feeling Iraq would withraw from Kuwait. But does Mr. Bush not think that he is overconfident?

How would he guarantee that his servicemen would come out unscathed? Or is he expecting a brief war in the Guif? The Bush administration has pushed to the Gulf the biggest American force since the Vietnam war, and only a fool would think that such a U.S. military presence in the area would not lead to a huge loss of life. Mr. Bush should be aware that if a war breaks out in the area, it would be hell on earth for the Americans. Such a war would drag on for longer than Mr. Bush would want.

It seems that Mr. Bush is repeating the same misjudgment his predecessors had made in Indochina. The American Administration of the time thought they would be able to crush the peasants and poorly equipped guerrillas of Vietnam. Perhaps Mr. Bush needs to be reminded of the nightmares and stress disorders Vietnam veterans have been living with for years now. Let him go and ask those who are still receiving treatment at veterans' rehabilitation centers about their fighting experience in an alien land facing two enemies—people and nature. These veterans must have an abundance of horror stories to tell Mr. Bush, and perhaps they will give him a very nice piece of advice—to go and watch "Coming Home," "Apocalypse Now," or "Born on the Fourth of July" to see for himself the devastating effect of having to fight in a losing war.

Like Bush, former U.S. Administrations deluded themselves into believing that they would break up people's resistance to American dreams of hegemony over other people's sovereignty and wealth. However, the United States was defeated in its reckless adventures, particularly those in Vietnam, where thousands of servicemen were killed or left with psychological scars.

And let the Americans not forget the 1983 explosion in Beirut that left dozens of U.S. soldiers dead, some beyond recognition. Citing incidents like these might be useful, especially that Bush's soldiers, most experienced, are facing battle-hardened Iraqis who are determined to hold on—no matter the sacrifice—in the face of the armies of the civilized [as heard] world. And they are not alone, as Mr. Bush tried to picture them; they have behind them the Arabs and Muslims of the world who have vowed to join the Iraqis against aggression.

So, Mr. Bush, why all this overconfidence?

Envoy Warns Europeans of Terrorist 'Movements'

LD3012173490 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] In an interview to EUROPA PRESS Television, [name as heard] Iraqi Ambassador to Spain Arshad Tawfiq says there is a wish to depict Iraq as a terrorist country and adds: We do not want terrorism, but if there is war, there may be these movements. The diplomat says he does not know of secret meetings having been organized with representatives of the U.S. For the Iraqi Ambassador, Spain's stand in the conflict, like that of Europe, is one that has been forced by the United States, and, therefore, they should rise up against U.S. domination.

USSR's Belousov on Cooperation, Crisis

JN3112161790 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 90 pp 1, 8

[By Maryam al-Sanati]

[Text] Baghdad—Soviet Deputy Prime Minister Igor Belousov has expressed satisfaction over his meeting with President Saddam Husayn, and he described the meeting as serious, important, and lengthy. In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, he added: "During the meeting, we discussed many issues pertaining to the Middle East problem and the Gulf crisis. There were also discussions on cooperation between the Soviet Union and Iraq on secondary matters arising from the Gulf crisis." The Soviet deputy prime minister said that extensive efforts are under way to maintain good and cordial relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union, especially since the Soviet Union is bound to Iraq through strong and specific treaties and agreements. He pointed out that the departure of the Soviet advisers at present does not mean revoking the contracts and agreements concluded between the two countries but, he said, it is a temporary situation that will end after the Gulf crisis, for which the Soviet Union is seeking, as it has always said, a solution through peaceful means and political dialogue.

Igor Belousov said that the aim of his visit was to consult with Iraqi officials on joint issues based on agreements concluded years ago on economic cooperation. Under the current circumstances in the region, we had to define ways to deal with matters concerning Iraqi economic installations in which many Soviet experts are working, and to discuss decisions to retain a number of experts and allow others to leave pending a relaxation of the crisis. The Soviet deputy prime minister added that the meetings with the Iraqi officials concentrated on preparations made by the Soviet delegation that visited Iraq led by the Soviet first deputy foreign minister, saying the proposals prepared by that delegation had won the complete approval of both sides. He added: During our current visit, the Iraqi side agreed to them.

Belousov also said there was no talk about stopping or revoking Soviet commitments under contracts already

concluded and that these suspensions will end, as I pointed out, and work will resume in all projects after peace prevails in the region. The Soviet deputy prime minister explained that agreement on practical matters was reached, that appropriate documents were signed, and that a sufficient number of experts would continue to work at the Iraqi economic projects in accordance with the agreement with Iraq. He added: Among the important matters discussed during the visit were future spheres of long-term economic cooperation between Iraq and the Soviet Union. Iraq also asked for a study of participation in establishing economic cooperation projects during the next five years.

Regarding the Gulf crisis, he said that, however difficult and complicated circumstances surrounding Iraq and the region may be for the time being, we should think about the future and promote economic life under all circumstances. Referring to the Soviet experts' departure, he affirmed that the required solution and agreement were reached with great satisfaction when President Saddam Husayn expressed them through his excellency's decision. As a result, special Aeroflot aircraft, assisted by Iraqi Airways aircraft, will take the Soviet experts directly from Baghdad to Moscow.

The Soviet deputy prime minister also announced that his delegation had talks with Iraqi officials. He said that the Soviet Union is seeking a solution to the Gulf crisis and to overcome this crisis without an armed dispute and that peaceful and political solutions should be sought. The Soviet Union's position is known. It endeavors to secure a suitable life for all nations in the world. At the end of his statement, he expressed satisfaction with the visit and wished the Iraqi people well-being and peace. He said that Iraq, which is known for its genuine culture and its glorious past, is worthy of living in peace.

Meets With Hammadi

JN2812114290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Dec (INA)—Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, received this morning Igor Belousov, deputy chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers, and his delegation. They reviewed relations between the two friendly countries and Arab and international developments.

The Soviet ambassador in Baghdad attended.

Yugoslavia's Loncar Arrives in Baghdad 28 Dec

LD2812173190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1614 GMT 28 Dec 90

[By Salih Konjhodzic]

[Text] Baghdad, December 28 (TANJUG)—Official Baghdad attaches great importance to the visit of Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar to Baghdad.

Loncar, also the representative of the chair-country of the Non- aligned Movement, on Friday arrived in Baghdad to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

It is pointed out here that official Baghdad appreciates the peace efforts of the Non-aligned Movement although it does not agree with the condemnation of the invasion on Kuwait and the demand for its unconditional withdrawal.

Baghdad especially values the [word indistinct] of the movement to make possible conditions which would enable efforts to settle a whole specter of Middle East problems—primarily the Palestinian question.

Iraq sees Yugoslavia as a traditional friend, it is said in Baghdad, adding that a lot of mutual effort for the comprehensive development of bilateral relations have been invested in the past 25 years.

It is believed in Iraq that this gives Loncar credibility to invest additional efforts aimed at overcoming the Gulf drama.

Loncar will set out the stands of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council which have asked Yugoslavia to mediate in finding a way out of the Gulf impasse.

Loncar is expected to have two meetings with his host Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz on Friday, while President Saddam Husayn is to receive Loncar on Saturday.

This is seen in Baghdad as a sign that Iraq will carefully review the stands of the Non-aligned Movement on the crisis in the Gulf.

Holds Talks With Aziz

AU2912143990 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, and Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz last night continued their talks on the possibilities of how to resolve the Gulf crisis in a peaceful way.

It is expected that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn will receive Loncar tomorrow.

This fact, as well as the fact that Loncar is extending his visit to Baghdad by one day, confirm the importance the Iraqi side attaches to the mediatory mission of the Yugoslav foreign minister and the representative of the chair country of the Nonaligned Movement.

Ends Fourth Round of Talks

LD2912213990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2059 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Dec (TANJUG)—The fourth round of talks between Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar and his host, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, ended in Baghdad this evening.

Their 12-hour talks which started last night focused on the explosive crisis in the Gulf and the search for peaceful solutions.

According to Baghdad radio, Tariq 'Aziz directed much of his attention to President Saddam Husayn's peace-making initiative launched on 12 August. The initiative insists on the comprehensive and coordinated resolution of all open questions in the Gulf and in the Middle East.

The Iraqi foreign minister, according to the same source, reiterated that without the resolution of the Palestinian problem there cannot be any just and lasting resolution of other problems.

Budimir Loncar, who arrived in Iraq in his capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, will be received by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn tomorrow.

Meets With Saddam

JN3012135590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received Budimir Loncar, Yugoslav federal secretary for foreign affairs. Budimir Loncar conveyed to his excellency a message from the Yugoslav leaders on the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two friendly countries, current developments, and Yugoslavia's desire to work for peace.

The president voiced his appreciation for the friendly ties with Yugoslavia and praised Yugoslavia's concern for resolving regional problems through peaceful means and the role it plays in supporting the Palestine question.

His excellency stressed that Iraq still considers a solution of the Palestine question the key to resolving all regional problems with a comprehensive view in accordance with the initiative declared by Iraq on 12 August, since Iraq has not received from any of the international parties any effective and constructive suggestions to achieve a peaceful settlement to the regional problems.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Yugoslav charge d'affairs in Baghdad.

Comments on Trip, Departs

LD3012143690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1410 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Dec (TANJUG)—Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, left Baghdad for Belgrade this afternoon after a three-day visit during which he conducted talks with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and his host, Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Before his departure from Baghdad airport, Loncar said in a statement for TANJUG that he had a total of five meetings with the Iraqi officials, which lasted over 10 hours. His meeting today with Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn alone lasted two and one-half-hours, including a 40-minute tete-a-tete.

Loncar stressed that he conducted a broad exchange of views on the Gulf crisis with Saddam Husayn and Tariq 'Aziz.

Proceeding from the fact that the crisis has entered a critical stage, with a serious threat of an armed conflict whose proportions would be difficult to grasp, Loncar put forth the views of Yugoslavia as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement. He drew special attention to the need for a peaceful solution to the crisis.

Within this context Loncar emphasized the relevance of the UN Security Council's views, as well as the stands of the Nonaligned Movement, concerning the Gulf situation since 4 October.

During his meeting with Saddam Husayn and Tariq 'Aziz, Loncar also pointed out the importance of a high-level Iraqi-U.S. meeting as one of the ways of seeking a solution to the present worrying situation.

As for Saddam Husayn, he showed respect for and greeted Yugoslavia's efforts for a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

In any case, it is obvious that—due to the delicate nature of Loncar's visit and talks—it is not possible, at least not at this moment, to reveal all the relevant factors of his exchange of views or to give any clear indications of how these would help in the easing of the dangerous tension which prevails currently in the Gulf region.

Saddam Says Jihad Has Put Nation on Right Path

JN0101100591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0934 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Baghdad, 1 Jan (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said that holy jihad, whose banner is today being raised by the Arab and Islamic nation all over the world in defense of justice, right, dignity, and the noble Arab and Islamic values, has put all of us on the right path God wanted for us.

In a cable of congratulations to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the Palestinian revolution anniversary, the president stressed that this is the path of patient mujahidin who have confidence in victory and who defend the land of the Arab and Islamic sanctities against the tyrannical Satan that is desecrating a part of Arab land, playing havoc on this land, spreading corruption, and threatening the sources of enlightenment and right in this nation.

The president told his brother the Palestinian president: Right is with us and history and future are with us, so let us persevere and fight the infidels and their agents wherever they may be. Victory is for us, God willing. It is God Who grants victory.

President Saddam Husayn beseeched God Almighty to crown the Palestinian Arab people's just jihad with success and victory over the usurpers and occupiers, and to make the flags of liberation and victory fly high on the land of dear Palestine, and to restore Jerusalem to what it has always been: the first of the two qiblas [direction where Muslims turn to in prayer] and the third holiest shrine, and capital of the independent state of Palestine.

Liberation Movements Threaten 'Mortal Blows'

JN3112160090 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 29 Dec 90 pp 1, 8

[By Jasim Murad]

[Excerpt] Mr. Salih Ra'fat, member of the command of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has warned that the DFLP's command and the Palestinian revolution, in addition to a number of Arab liberation movements, especially in the Arabian Peninsula, have directed their field missions to deliver mortal blows to the center and rear of U.S., Atlantic, and reactionary forces.

He added that the forces of the Palestinian revolution are ready to set ablaze the interests of the United States and the oil amirs if the United States carries out a military aggression against fraternal Iraq.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH, he added that the Arab region, especially the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf, will beget many heroic fedayeen—like Ayman Hasan in Egypt [Egyptian soldier currently on trial for killing four Israelis near the Egyptian- Israeli border on 25 November 1990], Sulayman Khatir [Egyptian soldier who killed several Israeli tourists on a beach at Tabah, near the Egyptian-Israeli border], and Husayn Nusayr [accused of killing Meir Kahane in New York]—and that Arab and Palestinian strugglers will fight the battle alongside Iraq, and will direct all their military and struggle capabilities against the U.S.-Atlantic presence and interests on Arab land.

Asked about the purpose of visiting Iraq, along with his delegation, Ra'fat said we have come to fraternal Iraq to consult and coordinate with the Iraqi leadership on the assignment of the struggle missions to confront the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression against fraternal Iraq, which is the spearhead against the enemies of the Arabs.

Mr. Ra'fat, who is visiting Iraq leading the DFLP delegation, added: We repeat what has been said by the leadership of fraternal Iraq; namely, that we are not warmongers, but we want peace and our rights in full, primarily a solution to the Palestine problem, and we want all the issues of the region to be addressed on the basis of President Saddam Husayn's 12 August initiative. However, if the U.S., Atlantic, and Zionist aggressors insist on aggression, then we will show them that we are stalwart fighters who do not retreat, and we will go forward until we teach U.S. imperialism and its allies a profound lesson on how an Arab fights when there is an experienced, struggling leadership. [passage omitted]

Trade Minister Comments on Rationing, Subsidy

JN0101175391 Baghdad ALIF BA' in Arabic 26 Dec 90 pp 6, 7

[Interview with Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih by 'Adil Sa'd; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Sa'd] Are all commodities supplied to citizens subsidized?

[Salih] All essential commodities are subsidized and have fixed prices. I will give you an example to show the size and kind of subsidy: The state buys one tonne of rice for about 1,600 dinars and sells it to citizens, after processing, for about 300 fils per kilogram. This means the state subsidizes each tonne of rice by about 1,300 dinars so that citizens can buy it at reasonable prices.

I would like to note another statistic. The total monthly sum paid by each citizen for the commodities mentioned in the supply card—flour, sugar, tea, rice, fats, legumes, detergents, and soap—is only two dinars, to which 25 fils are added in return for the services of the retail distributor for each kilogram of the items mentioned in the card. [passage omitted]

[Sa'd] What about the fact that some items received by distributors actually weigh less than the recorded weight, which forces the distributors to cut down the citizen's ration?

[Salih] Rice, flour, and legumes lose weight with storage. We solve this by adding certain amounts according to the type of the commodity. Another reason for the decrease in weight is that some flour mills do it deliberately. Instead of filling a sack with 50 kilograms, for example, they fill it with 48 kilograms. This happened when the supply system was first implemented. But those cases were discovered and dealt with. There is now strict control to prevent such acts. One of the measures taken in this respect is that the transporter must sign a document in the mill confirming that the weight is right. [passage omitted]

[Sa'd] Mr. Minister, some distributors use weak excuses to delay distribution. What are your instructions to them?

[Salih] Every distributor should distribute the commodities as soon as he receives them and fills sacks with them. The citizen's ration is ensured, and the distributor cannot meddle with it. Violators risk legal action taken against them in accordance with Revolution Command Council Decision No. 315 of 1990, which states that capital punishment will be imposed on any agent who monopolizes and trades in food. It is never possible for any distributor to receive a lower ration than scheduled for him, together with the additional quantity to make up for the difference in weight.

[Sa'd] Do you think that the number of distributors is in proportion with the population?

[Salih] I think the supply system, after having gone through five months of unjust and inhumane embargo by the Bush Administration on Iraq, has accomplished good and important results. However, the citizens themselves must evaluate it, as they are the true indicators of the success of the supply system. In the final analysis, what is important is the citizens' satisfaction. [passage omitted]

[Sa'd] Why do some semolina and bread bakeries only open once or twice a week?

[Salih] The reason is that the demand for semolina and bread has become very limited, because more than 90 percent of the citizens now have decided to take flour. We are studying the idea of distributing flour to all citizens.

[Sa'd] What will become of the bakeries if flour is distributed to all citizens?

[Salih] Our view is that each citizen will take flour and give it to the bakery located in his area if he wishes. The bakeries will extend the service of baking to a certain group of citizens. Thus, we guarantee that bread and semolina will not leak to restaurants, and there will no longer be crowds at some bakeries.

[Sa'd] Do you not see in this an additional effort, your excellency the minister?

[Salih] It is currently being practiced by citizens in most areas where more than 90 percent of the citizens receive flour. Some citizens knead it at home, while others have an agreement with bakers or bakeries in exchange for a certain price.

[Sa'd] Why is there no flexibility in dealing with bread or semolina coupons? Is it not a guaranteed right for the citizen? Why does the citizen lose his right to use them when they expire?

[Salih] There is a system for distribution that is controlled by time. Any violation of this system will cause confusion and violation of citizens' rights. Therefore, dates are checked when distributing.

[Sa'd] All that we have talked about has concerned the organizational and administrative framework of the supply system. My last question is about the educational and moral framework.

[Salih] The country has great confidence in the citizen. We want the citizen to supervise the supply operation. We would like popular supervision to increases. We would be very pleased to receive any suggestions or ideas to develop the supply system that is currently being adopted, or to develop the ministry's work in a manner that guarantees and strengthens the great national steadfastness under the guardianship and directions of victorious leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

Opposition Groups Issue Anti-Saddam Statement

JN2912212190 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Dec 90

["Text" of statement by the "Iraqi opposition's groups and factions," read by "Hojjat ol-Eslam va al-Moslemin Muhammad al-Haydari, member of the Central Shura Committee of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, at a news conference held in Beirut on 28 December"—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Iraqi opposition forces,

Realizing the critical general condition in their beloved homeland and the seriousness of the phase through which we all are going through, in which the autocratic rule of the tyrant Saddam Husayn, his oppressive apparatus, and his bloodthirsty terrorism are prevailing and in which Saddam is singlehandedly making the most serious decisions affecting the fate of our people and nation without the participation of any constitutional or elected institution—decisions such as the mad war against the neighboring Islamic Republic of Iran which he launched after canceling the Algiers agreement he himself signed with the shah, and which he subsequently restored through a decision of his own, completely ignoring the will of our Iraqi people;

Observing the continued expansion by the leadership of the Baghdad dictatorial regime of the scale of oppression, repression, terrorism, and bodily liquidation of thousands of the best sons of our struggling Iraqi people and all their national forces—Islamic, nationalists, Arab, Kurdish, and democratic—in pursuance of a policy of political, ethnic, religious, and sectarian discrimination, plunging the country into a stifling political, economic, and social crisis; taking into account the regime's contempt of the Iraqi people's historic and social reality of two major nationalities, Arab and Kurdish, as well as other national minorities—being a Muslim people with other religious minorities;

Appreciating the dangers of the crisis in the Gulf region which resulted from the aggression on Kuwait, its occupation and its annexation to Iraq by force, and the accompanying killing, looting, and plundering perpetrated by the Saddamist gangs—actions contrary to the Iraqi people's principles and values—and the subsequent buildup of foreign armies in the Arab region, thus lighting the spark of a destructive war that will inflict a new disaster on our people, the Kuwaiti people, and the region, and bring immense losses to our national economy and our people's resources and capabilities;

And condeming the occupation and annexation of Kuwait by force;

Denounces and condemns the massing of foreign armies and fleets, and declares that the peaceful option for solving the Gulf problem and warding off a possible

disastrous war is by increasing the pressure on the Iraqi regime to force it to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally, mobilizing all forces to effect the withdrawal of all the foreign forces from the region, solving the differences among the region's states peacefully, restoring matters to their right course, avoiding a disastrous war, saving our people from the dangers of possible threats in the current prevailing tension, and avoiding all the attempts to starve, weaken, and humiliate them.

The Iraqi opposition forces, with their various groups and trends, have agreed on a number of basic principles and on a unified political program for joint action among them that is commensurate with the requirements of the current phase. They thus respond to the desire of our struggling people, who want to reach their noble and just aims, by resolving to escalate solidary actions to get rid forever of the nightmare of dictatorship, authoritarianism, and terrorism.

With rare courage, our people are facing the coercion and cruelty of Saddam's dictatorial regime, which turns its back on the values and ideals of humanity, Islam, and Arabism. This regime is the heir of the relics of despotic and agent regimes that had ruled Iraq with unparalleled tyranny and a monopoly of power. Today, they are making ready to take control of their own destiny assisted in the effort by the Iraqi Armed Forces, which still yearn for fulfillment of their national, pan-Arab, and Islamic missions.

The Iraqi opposition forces combined appeal to our Iraqi people and their valiant army in these critical times of the history of our country, through which its future and the fate of its children will undoubtedly be determined, to show fortitude and be prepared to deal the decisive blow that will forestall any attempt to put the independence and sovereignty of Iraq to immense risks and ruinous catastrophe, and urge them to realize the following objectives:

1. To topple the dictatorial regime with the will of the Iraqi people and liquidate its relics and abrogate the wrongful laws issued by it.

2. To topple all the colonialist conspiratorial schemes aiming to destroy Iraq and fragment its unity as well as destroy its economic and military prowess and resist all the projects conducive to this in a manner that boosts and safeguards the Iraqi people's national unity and consecrates the independence of its people, land, and entity.

3. To form a coalition, an interim government grouping all sections of the Iraqi people with all their political forces opposed to the corrupt regime to succeed the present regime and fulfill the following missions:

A. Abolishment of the exceptional conditions and liquidation of the traces of the dictatorial regime in all fields, the termination of the practice of political, ethnic, religious, and sectarian persecution, the granting of an all-inclusive amnesty to all prisoners and detainees and political fugitives, reinstatement of the dismissed civilian and military personnel to their former jobs, and reimbursing them for the damages they have had to suffer.

B. Abolishment of confessional discrimination practiced against the majority of the Iraqi people and employed to play them against each other, the elimination of attendant consequences by creating equal opportunites for all the Iraqis to take part in running the country, achievement of social justice and complete equality among them in terms of rights and obligations without any discrimination in any area, including citizenship and other civic and culutral rights, and implementing these constitutionally.

C. Ensuring the return of evacuees and expellees inside and outside of Iraq to their places of residence, and reinstituting their rights and property as well as offering them fair compensation.

4. To abolish the policy of ethnic discrimination and remove the political and demographic repercussions which resulted from the attempt to change the ethnic and historical nature of Iraq's Kurdistan; find a just solution to the Kurdish problem and give the Kurds their legitimate national and political rights by applying and improving the clauses of the 11 March 1970 agreement, which the people of Iraq imposed, in letter and spirit and within the framework of Iraqi national unity in a manner that strengthens Arab-Kurdish brotherhood; and secure the cultural and administrative rights of the ethnic minorities, such as the Turkomans, Assyrians, and others.

5. To realize democratic public liberties, which include the freedom of political, trade union, and social activity and organization; freedom of the press and publication; freedom to gather, stage demonstrations, and go on strike; freedom to free expression and thoughts, including the freedom to practice religious and sectarian rites. Also, to recognize political pluralism and the change of power through parliamentary practices and according to the will of the majority of the people.

6. To guarantee human rights in Iraq as stipulated in the International Human Rights Declaration and to protect the citizens' dignity and public and private rights.

7. To move the country to constitutional conditions by holding free, direct elections through secret ballot to elect a constituent assembly that would draft the permanent constitution within a period of not more than two years and not less that one year.

8. To build the Armed Forces on a sound basis that will enable them to play their role to defend the homeland, respect the constitutional institutions and the choice made by the Iraqi people regarding the political system they choose, and play their pan-Arab role to face colonialism and Zionism and its schemes.

9. To support the efforts to achieve Arab solidarity and to march on the path of Arab unity, which can achieve the ambitions of the Arab nation and which is based on its free will and on hostility toward colonialism and Zionism.

10. To back the struggle of the Palestinian Arab people and their valiant intifadah to liberate their homeland, including holy Jerusalem, and establish their independent state on their national soil, and to support the liberation movements struggling to achieve their peoples' rights against the exploiters and tyrants.

11. To endeavor to support and bolster solidarity, cooperation, and unity among the Muslim peoples and support the efforts seeking to achieve Islamic unity in order to strengthen the anti-colonialist and anti-Zionism front and all forms of exploitation in a manner that will serve their common interests.

12. To adopt an independent foreign policy, keep away from foreign alliances, build a real Arab and Muslim solidarity, and build ties of good neighborliness with all countries on the principles of peaceful coexistence, common interests, and the charters of the Arab League, the Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations. Also, to respect international agreements, help protect peace in the region and the world, and endeavor within the framework of the international community's efforts to protect the environment, ban mass destruction weapons, and destroy all atomic, bacteriological, and chemical weapons.

Peace be upon you.

Leader Comments

NC3112152390 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, Dec 31 (AFP)—Nineteen Iraqi opposition groups in exile have adopted a common strategy to overthrow President Saddam Husayn, an opposition leader said here Monday.

Ayatollah Muhammad Taghi Mudarrisi told Agence France-Presse that the platform approved here Saturday called for "respect for human rights, freedom, political pluralism, the reintegration of Iraq into the international community and social and scientific progress."

The signatories include five Kurdish parties, six Islamic movements, along with socialists, communists, Nasirites and members of nationalist groups.

"Because of the psychological behavior of Saddam Husayn, war seems inevitable," said Ayatollah Mudarrisi.

"The Iraqi president wants to use a war to get out of the domestic problems his regime is facing."

He stressed that the opposition "did not support the invasion of Kuwait, just as it was not responsible for calling in foreign troops to defend the region."

The ayatollah, head of the Shiite Islamic Action Organization, on December 25 called for the removal of "the dictator of Baghdad, who is leading our people from aggression to aggression to slake his thirst for blood."

Levi Says Saddam Endangered if Israel Attacked

TA0101174691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Excerpt] This week, 50 British Jews came to Jerusalem in a show of solidarity vis-a-vis Saddam Husayn's missiles: Conference of Presidents of British Jewry is the official name of the delegation which arrived with the assistance of the World Zionist Organization.

Addressing the guests, Foreign Minister David Levi said: We will not provide Saddam Husayn with an alibi to draw us into a war.

[Begin Levi recording] We are monitoring the developments with open eyes and apprehension. A low profile does not mean an eternal obligation, and no matter what happens, if Saddam Husayn takes the risk and attacks Israel, Israel will react, and it will do so swiftly and very painfully. Both our enemies and allies should know this. [end recording]

We have no advice to give others, the foreign minister continued. We do not want anyone to say that we pushed the world into a war which it did not want. At this point, he sends the Baghdad ruler a direct warning:

[Begin Levi recording] Saddam Husayn is in love with the concept of expansionism and conquest, but he is even more in love with himself. He is his own most precious object. Therefore, before he takes the risk of attacking Israel, he ought to remember that that object which he holds most precious will be endangered. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Sees Jordanian Extremists as 'Warning'

TA0201075991 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi has again addressed himself to the Jordanian issue. This morning he referred to the establishment of the new government there. We must see the strengthening of the extremist elements in Jordan as a warning, and Israel is following it closely, he said. Our political correspondent Natan Guttman spoke to Foreign Minister Levi:

[Begin recording] [Levi] For a long time, very extreme elements have been gaining strength in Jordan. This must set off a warning signal, first and foremost for the Jordanian authorities. I hope that the stability continues and that these elements, which are rooted in extremism and fanaticism, will not become dominant in the future.

[Guttman] Is Israel worried by this move?

[Levi] Israel has always been pleased to see moderate elements which bring peace and progress for their people. It also closely monitors extremist and unstable elements, because they only bring trouble and wars to their people. [end recording]

Shamir Notes Countdown to 15 Jan, Expresses Hopes

TA0201053891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said last night that the countdown to 15 January has begun and that he hopes there will be a peaceful resolution to the Gulf crisis.

[Begin Shamir recording in English] We earnestly hope there will a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis which will not only remove the Iraqi Army from Kuwait, but will also put an end to the Iraqi military threat to the region, both conventional and nonconventional. [end recording]

Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that the prime minister was speaking to members of the Canadian Jewish Congress. He reiterated that Saddam Husayn knows that if he tries to attack Israel, we will hit Iraq, and our allies are aware of our position and our state of readiness.

Wishes Bush 'Success and Victory'

TA0101060691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has wished President Bush success and victory in the New Year. The prime minister was speaking to reporters last night in Jerusalem after addressing a large gathering of Jewish students from the Diaspora who are studying in Israel. Reporter Jack Katzenell asked the prime minister for his reaction to the offer from the incoming president to the European Community, Jacques Poos, to negotiate on all problems of the Middle East, if Saddam Husayn withdraws from Kuwait.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] Well, this gentleman did not consult with us, and I have no reaction on that.

[Katzenell] Do you think that Europe is prepared to secure a political settlement with Saddam Husayn at Israel's expense?

[Shamir] Maybe somebody thinks about it, but we will never accept it.

[Katzenell] Sir, what is your message to Israel and the Jewish people on the beginning of the civilian New Year?

[Shamir] Well, as in every day, we wish the people of Israel success and progress in building their homeland—the State of Israel. Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent] What would you wish for Mr. Bush in the New Year, Sir?

[Shamir] Success and victory. [end recording]

The prime minister said he hoped Bush would achieve the aims which he defines every day: to free the Middle east from the threat of dictatorship and violence.

Commenting on yesterday's bomb incident in Jerusalem and the approach of Fatah day today, the prime minister

said he was sure that terrorists would not succeed in carrying out their evil plans. Anyone who sets out to harm Israel, Shamir said, hurts the Palestinians first and foremost.

On the Luxembourg foreign minister's willingness to hold talks on all Middle East problems in exchange first for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem had promised an immediate campaign within the European Community to stop any attempt to link the two.

Mubarak Willing To Meet Shamir if Progress Shown

TA2612195490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] Now, when the whole world is focused on the crisis in the Gulf, is the time for restraint and self containment. These remarks were made by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in a message he relayed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Mubarak made the remarks in a meeting with Efrayim Doweq, Israel's ambassador in Egypt, when the latter presented his credentials last week.

Our political correspondent Natan Gutman reports that the Egyptian president added that he has no objection to meeting Prime Minister Shamir but that progress must be made on the peace process before a meeting can be held.

'Nothing New' in Mubarak Remarks

TA2712115790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Officials in Jerusalem say there is nothing new in President Mubarak's statement at his meeting with the new Israeli ambassador in Cairo, Efrayim Dowek. Mubarak said he is interested in meeting with Prime Minister Shamir, provided this will lead to progress in the peace process. Jack Katzenell reports:

Officials in Jerusalem say President Mubarak's statement should not be viewed as a formal invitation to Prime Minister Shamir. From time to time, the Egyptian president says he is in favor of a meeting with Shamir, but he always adds: only when there is something to talk about. At any rate, the prime minister's bureau predicts, such a meeting will not take place before the Gulf crisis is over. [passage omitted]

Contacts With Arabs Steps To 'Build Trust'

TA2812115490 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 28 Dec 90 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Diplomatic contacts between Israel and the United States—and, through it, with Arab countries—have been held recently to discuss mutual steps to "build trust" toward the renewal of the political process, once the Kuwait crisis is over.

Political sources in Israel told our correspondent that the contacts were held to discuss practical steps toward eliminating the refugee camps and launching contacts with Arab countries to deal with the water crisis, mutual security arrangements, and other issues.

This will be the first time Arab countries agree to participate in solving the refugee camps problem. Syria has expressed its agreement to partake in such a political move, provided that the contacts with Israel are held in the framework of an international conference and that the Palestinian problem is raised by the Arab countries. Syria has also declared that it would not be dragged into separate arrangements with Israel and that it would only take part in comprehensive arrangements.

The sources reported that it is possible that the international conference would be given a different name—possibly "international auspices"—but in principle it would include the two superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union.

IDF Resumes Gas Mask Distribution

TA0201113791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Jan 91 p 10

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] resumed distribution of gas masks in urban areas, but continues to resist demands from rural areas to provide masks to one million residents of outlying Jewish, Arab, Druse and Bedouin villages.

Civil Defense chief Brig.-Gen. Uri Manos said, "Our intention now is to distribute the kits to new immigrants, infants, recently discharged soldiers and others in those areas where masks were distributed some weeks ago."

Manos suggested that, as the Security Council's January 15 deadline for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait approaches, citizens should review their home preparations, making certain that such articles as transistor radios, flashlights, bottled water and material for sealing rooms are on hand and in usable condition.

Since the distribution program began, 150,000 teachers and over a million schoolchildren have been trained in the use of the masks, Manos said. He added that IDF personnel are continuing to explain civil defense preparations to new immigrants and other citizens.

Forty information stations have been set up throughout the country to answer questions on the distribution, Manos said. The Haga telephone hotline, 03-817832, remains in operation.

Manos emphasized to those who have received masks that the kits should be left closed in a dry place within reach.

Mitzna' To Head IDF Planning Branch

TA2512141090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna' will stay on in the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and will assume the post of head of the IDF Planning Branch, replacing Maj. Gen. Dani Yatom.

This morning Maj. Gen. Mitzna' met with the defense minister and informed Arens that he had accepted his proposal. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe pointed out that understandings were reached regarding increased authority for the head of the IDF Planning Branch.

Peretz Presents Plan To Absorb 400,000 Immigrants

TA3112172090 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 31 Dec 90 p A3

[Report by Arye Bender]

[Text] Immigrant Absorption Minister Yitzhaq Peretz heaved a sigh of relief upon emerging from the Cabinet session yesterday, after having presented his ministry's plan for the absorption of 400,000 immigrants in 1991 and after shaking hands with Minister Ari'el Sharon. Their reconciliation is a fact now.

From the early hours of the morning and until his staffers distributed the plan (compiled into a blue and beige chrome brochure) to the Cabinet members, Peretz closeted himself in his office with his aides to rehearse his presentation.

A close analysis of the plan reveals it not to contain much that is new. Here are some of its most outstanding clauses:
—A redeployment of Immigrant Absorption Ministry offices throughout Israel and their administrative reorganization into six districts and 29 district bureaus.
—Expanding eight existent offices and opening seven new ones.
—Adding 14 computer terminals at Ben-Gurion Airport and opening a new 700-square-meter hall to process immigrants.
—Expanding the computer network to include all the ministry's offices throughout the country.
—Increasing the ministry's staff from 544 to 956 workers and improving physical conditions in the offices.

The plan fails to mention a very important factor: The Finance Ministry budgeted the Immigrant Absorption Ministry based on a forecast of 300,000 immigrants, while the plan is based on a forecast of 400,000 immigrants.

Minister Peretz does not mention the additional budget needed. The only figures cited in the report pertain to additional manpower, whose cost is estimated at 8.04 million Israeli shekels, as well as the cost of opening new offices and expanding old ones, estimated at $275,000 a year.

The plan elaborates on the issue of housing and employment. The Immigrant Absorption Ministry estimates that 132,000 housing units will be needed for 400,000 immigrants. Current reserves total 84,000 apartments, while demand stands at 130,000, creating a deficit of 45,000 housing units. Peretz' plan criticizes the notion of trailers and mobile homes, cautioning that they might become slums. Sharon will not like this notion or Peretz' proposal to start getting used to the idea of tents.

On the question of employment, the ministry's plan notes that the number of job-seekers since the latest wave of immigration began is estimated at 65,000, of which 7,000 remain unemployed. Some 10,000 immigrants are expected to join the ranks of job-seekers every month.

"The main message of my plan is that the Immigrant Absorption Ministry is ready to tackle the absorption of 400,000 immigrants. The plan presents practical solutions and speaks about the reorganization of the entire ministry's work," Minister Peretz says.

Replying to his plan's critics, Peretz said: "Those who criticize the plan have not read it thoroughly and have not experienced the absorption process as we have. The basic principles we used to absorb 200,000 immigrants are also valid for the absorption of 400,000 immigrants. That is why the plan describes our actions in the field in the past year, which are valid and apply to the coming year as well." Deliberations on the plan will continue next week.

Paper Says Deportations Give Rise to New Leadership

TA2612112290 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 24 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Expulsion Policy Futile"]

[Text] Four Palestinians whom Israel calls "leaders" are awaiting expulsion. Others have been arrested and placed under administrative detention or sentenced to prison terms. Hundreds of Palestinian "leaders" have been expelled from the occupied territories. Many more await a similar fate as Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens has promised more expulsions and claims to have a list of Palestinians he wants to see kicked out of the country.

Israel believes the people slated for expulsion or detained behind bars are responsible for the Intifadah and that their expulsion or incarceration will therefore bring an end to this popular revolt. Israel made the same claim about the 58 Palestinians it has expelled and the tens of thousands of others it has detained since the Intifadah started. Yet after three years of Intifadah, the popular movement is far from being crushed.

Former Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, who is considered a hawk in his liberal Labor Party, stressed many times that there is no military solution to the Intifadah, only a political solution. Ironically, when

Rabin was in office he did the same things his successor is now doing. He only realized the futility of his policy after leaving office.

After Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza Strip in 1967, it failed to take advantage of a situation very much in its favor to reach a peaceful agreement with the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors. Instead, it expelled hundreds of Palestinians leaders, assuming that by emptying the land of its leaders, the rest of the population would be easier to control. This logic may work for a while, but only a short while. Before long, new leaders emerge to carry on the struggle that started before them. This has been the situation in the occupied territories.

Israel's expulsion and administrative detention policies will prove futile. They will only harm future reconciliation efforts between the Palestinians and the Israelis, rather than contribute toward a better future for Israel—not to mention the irreparable damage this policy will have on current peace efforts. Expulsions or detentions are not the answer. The answer is in political compromise.

Al-Tibi Barred From Leaving Country for 3 Months

TA2812063390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] An order has been issued barring Dr. Ahmad al-Tibi from leaving the country. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the order, issued by the interior minister, is valid for three months. Al-Tibi was about to leave on a private visit to Egypt but was also due to meet with Egyptian statesman Usamah al-Baz.

Four 'One-Man Factions' Approved in Knesset

TA2512123690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 25 Dec 90

[Text] The Knesset House Committee today approved the withdrawal of four Knesset members [MK's] from their parties and recognized them as one-man factions. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that this applies to MK Rabbi Yitzhaq Peretz; MK Charlie Biton; MK Efrayim Gur; and MK Eli'ezer Mizrahi. As one-man factions, each of the four will receive about 443,000 shekels per annum from state funds slated for the financing of party activities.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 25 December reports that the name of Peretz' one-man faction is "Moriya—the People of Israel According to the Torah of Israel;" Peretz withdrew from SHAS, Torah Observing Sephardim. MK Charlie Biton left HADASH, Democratic Front for Peace and Equality; according to the Tel Aviv Radio report, he has not yet named his new faction. Tel Aviv Radio reports MK Gur's faction is named "Unity for Peace and Aliyah;" Gur's original party was the Alignment. Tel Aviv Radio reports Mizrahi's new faction is named "Ge'ulat Yisra'el," meaning Israel's redemption; Mizrahi left Agudat Yisra'el.]

Reportage on Fatah Day Unrest, Other Incidents

20 Hamas Activists Arrested

TA2812110790 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Dec 90 p 20

[ITIM report]

[Text] Some 20 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists were arrested by the security forces in a sweep of Kafr Fir'awn, near Tulkarm, before dawn yesterday.

It was relatively quiet in Judaea and Samaria, as the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] placed a curfew on Nabulus and four surrounding refugee camps to prevent disturbances aimed at marking the anniversary of the establishment of Fatah on January 1.

In disturbances in Janin, a 15-year-old was lightly injured by IDF gunfire.

In Gaza, a curfew was placed on the al-Shati' refugee camp, home of 'Abd-al-'Ubayd, who was shot dead on Wednesday after stabbing three soldiers.

Hamas issued a special leaflet calling on Palestinians throughout Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip to strike on Sunday to protest against the retrial of Hamas leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. If the retrial should not open, the strike will go on as scheduled, to protest "oppressive measures" taken against Hamas, the leaflet said.

In Jerusalem's Old City, there were several incidents of stones being thrown at security forces after they prevented students from ascending the Temple Mount, for fear of disturbances. For a short time, only worshippers were allowed on the Temple Mount.

Leaders Condemn Hebron Shootings

TA2812191690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The entire political spectrum has condemned the shootings at Gush 'Etzyon. However, the left and some of the center attribute the crime to the early release of the Jewish underground, while spokesmen on the right have dismissed this as nonsense. Jack Katzenell reports:

Defense Minister Moshe Arens condemned the shootings as a criminal act, and he promised that the security forces would do everything in their power to catch whoever is responsible.

Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon also condemned the murders [as heard]. In a democratic society, he said, no one has the right to take the law into his own hands.

The chairman of the Labor Party's Knesset caucus, Hayim Ramon, said the shooting proves that there is a new Jewish underground. The same expression was used by Avraham Poraz of the Shinuy party.

The HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] communists said the lenient attitude shown by

the authorities to the Jewish underground led to the latest shootings. This was echoed by Yosi Sarid of the Citizens Rights Movement: If killers who murdered innocent people in cold blood are given a hero's welcome when they emerge from prison, why shouldn't someone else aspire to the same status, Sarid asked.

Knesset Member Elyaqim Ha'etzni of the Tehiya party said: This is utter nonsense. There is no connection, Ha'etzni said, between the release of the underground and last night's shootings. He also drew a sharp distinction between the murders committed by the Jewish underground and those of David Ben-Shimol, who is still in jail [for firing a LAW missile at an Arab bus] or the killers of the Arab taxi driver and [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

The Council of Jewish Communities in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is walking a tightrope between the two views. The council condemned last night's killings [as heard] unequivocally but took no stand on whether it was linked to the release of the underground members. [passage omitted]

Injured Arab Recovering

TA2912060990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] The condition of the Hebron doctor seriously wounded in a terror attack Thursday is said to be improving. Two other people in his car—his sister and her infant—received light to medium wounds. All three are in Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital. There were a number of reports during the day suggesting that the attack was carried out by a man in an Army uniform, wearing a skull cap. Defense Minister Moshe Arens said every effort will be made to apprehend the assailants.

In the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunus, an Israeli soldier was lightly injured yesterday in a stone-throwing incident. He was taken to Ashqelon's Barzilay Hospital.

There was a general strike in the territories yesterday, called by the Unified National Command [of the Uprising]. In all, in violence during the day, 10 Arabs were injured.

The curfew imposed on the al-Shati' refugee camp in the Gaza Strip continues. Curfews also remain in force in Nabulus and its surrounding refugee camps, the camps near Tulkarm, the town of Salfit, and the al-Duhayshah refugee camp near Bethlehem.

Police Apprehend Suspected Attacker

TA3112180790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] This evening the police apprehended a 19-year-old Jewish youngster from northern Israel who is suspected of having opened fire at an Arab family at the Gush 'Etzyon junction four days ago.

Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the youngster confessed to the crime. The investigation reveals that the youngster operated on his own, and that he perpetrated the deed in order to avenge the killing of a relative by terrorists in Jerusalem's Baq'a neighborhood about two months ago. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1705 GMT on 31 December adds that "as far as is known, there is no connection whatsoever between the youngster and the Zionist Avengers, the organization that assumed responsibility for the attack."]

The Civil Administration will pay all the hospitalization expenses of the three victims and the extraordinary expenses they incurred as a result of the attack. Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld notes that Brigadier General Shay Erez, head of the Civil Administration, stated as much during a visit he paid to the three victims at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem.

'Collaborators' Attack Villagers

TA3012173490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] A local resident was shot dead and eight others were wounded in the Janin District village of Ya'bad. Testimonies from villagers revealed that three local residents known as collaborators with the authorities had attempted to beat one of the residents. When onlookers tried to rescue him, the three opened fire with weapons in their possession, killing the youth and wounding eight others.

Our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld reports that after the killing the Army clamped a curfew on the village.

West Bank Man Dies; 18 Shot in Gaza

TA3112110890 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 31 Dec 90 p 10

[Report by David Rudge, JERUSALEM POST staff, and agencies]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] In Nabulus, a 19-year-old Palestinian was killed yesterday in an explosion near the military headquarters, but the circumstances were unclear, local sources said. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] confirmed the report.

In two Gaza City districts, troops shot and wounded 11 rioters in the limbs with live ammunition and another seven with rubber bullets, local sources reported. [passage omitted]

Police and IDF troops arrested four more residents of the eastern sector of Barta'a village on suspicion of committing a series of nationalistic acts inside the Green Line. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 31 December in a page A3 report by Yizhar Be'er adds that "the IDF seized 1,200 hectares from the village of 'Ayn Siniya, north of

Ramallah. The land is in the area from which shots were fired early this month at an Egged No. 176 bus carrying settlers from Elon More. Three passengers were injured in the incident."]

Soldiers Kill Three Arabs

TA0101181491 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Two masked men were killed tonight east of Khan Yunus, when an Army force encountered a group of armed masked men, our correspondent Hasan Abu-Ziyad reports.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 1 Janaury reports that "a 17-year-old youth from the Nabulus District village of Rujayb was killed today as rioters were being dispersed."]

Death Toll Rises to Four

TA0201122691

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 2 January in a report by Jon Immanuel and news agencies on pages 1 and 10 says that "four Palestinians died in clashes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday. IDF [Israel Defense Forces] efforts to avoid major confrontations on Fatah Day through the use of curfews and highway patrols were in the main successful."

The report says that in yesterday's riots in the territories a 30-year-old resident of Qabatiyah "was fatally shot in the chest after youths broke curfew and confronted soldiers on the Janin- Nabulus road which runs through the village. Military sources confirmed his death."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 2 January in a page 7 pool report says that in the village of Burga' in Samaria yesterday, two locals were wounded by soldiers' gunfire. "One of them, a 19-year-old, was seriously wounded in the head. A youth was also hurt." In the village of al-'Awja, in the northern Nabulus District, a collaborator who was attacked fired back and hit three local youths. "An Army force which arrived on the scene confronted groups of youths and masked men, which led to two others being injured." "Several others" were also hurt in the Nur al-Shams refugee camp near Tulkarm and in Hebron.

"Fatah day passed rather peacefully in East Jerusalem except for unrest in the Shu'fat refugee camp and the Sharafa neighborhood on the Mount of Olives, where security forces were forced to use tear gas and rubber bullets to break up the disturbances."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 2 January reports that "there was rioting last night in the biggest security prison in Nabulus. Guards were forced to use tear gas after hundreds of inmates began chanting nationalist slogans and banging on their cell doors. When the rioting continued despite several warnings, the prison warden ordered tear gas to be fired. Six inmates required medical treatment."

The newscast adds that "this morning the Army lifted the curfew imposed on most of the Gaza Strip. It remains in force in Rafah and in the Bani-Suhalyah neighborhood of Gaza."

Al-Husayni Debates Beilin at Tel Aviv University

TA3112135490 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 31 Dec 90 p A6

[ITIM report]

[Text] "Mr. Shamir is no less abhorrent in Palestinian and Arab eyes than Saddam Husayn is in the eyes of the Israelis. How can we Palestinians, who have called for a political solution for our problem all these years, say that the Arab conflict with Shamir must be resolved politically, while Saddam Husayn should have his throat slit?" This question was posed by Palestinian notable Faysal al-Husayni, during a debate held at Tel Aviv University, with the participation of Alignment Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Beilin.

The debate on the question of whether there is still a chance for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue was initiated by the university-affiliated peace movement "Enough Is Enough" ['Ad Kan].

Al-Husayni, who arrived accompanied by Palestinian bodyguards, said: "We want a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East in conjunction with the resolving of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict."

He said that the European experience proves that there is no future for small states and, therefore, the countries in the Middle East must learn to cooperate with each other. "The Palestinians want to build a state of their own on part of their homeland, parallel to the State of Israel, not instead of it."

Al-Husayni said he believed that this solution would be acceptable to all Palestinians; however, they would not accept any partial solution in which Israel would treat them as a minority, as refugees and not a people, or a solution that would try to resolve the problem by forcing the Palestinians out of the territories. "Then we would look for the solution in Haifa, Lod, Ramla, 'Akko, and Yafo as well."

Al-Husayni said: "We have decided to adopt a framework of struggle, accepting the Security Council resolutions even if we do not like them. We are doing this for the sake of our children. We are willing to talk to the Israelis not because we trust them or respect them but because they are here, and we have decided that they are an enemy one can live with." He added: "We support an international conference. It is the only way to guarantee a settlement that would not require us to bear arms in order to make sure it is implemented."

MK Beilin said that the mode of negotiations is less important than their essence. Beilin said he does not fear an international conference, but would prefer direct Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. He reiterated his proposal to immediately establish an independent Palestinian state in the Gaza Strip and instate autonomy in the Gaza Strip. Al-Husayni responded to Beilin's proposals by saying: "Why should an immediate Israeli withdrawal be limited to the Gaza Strip and not carried out from all the territories?"

Out of fear of clashes with right-wing students on the Tel Aviv campus, the organizers of the debate distributed invitations to the meeting, and only those with invitations were allowed in. A security company was also hired. The police permitted right-wing demonstrators to gather 60 meters away from the lecture hall entrance. A number of eggs was hurled at the entrance.

The demonstrators, about 30 students and right-wing activists from the Moledet, Tehiya, and Tzomet factions bore placards and shouted hostile slogans against al-Husayni and Beilin. When the debate was over, the participants discovered that the tires of cars which bore Peace Now stickers had been slashed in the University's parking lot.

Eytan Briefs Cabinet on Water Crisis

TA3012190490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Excerpt] The Cabinet today heard a report from Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan about the crisis in the water economy. He proposed that water be imported, large sums be invested in desalination and sewage purification, and that drastic cuts be made in farm production. Here is Jack Katzenell:

The water deficit is between 1 billion and 1.3 billion cubic meters, Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan told the Cabinet. Even if this year's rainfall is average, he said, it will not replenish even half the annual consumption. Eytan believes Israel will have to import about 300 million cubic meters of water each year, and should undertake to buy such a quantity from a foreign country for at least 10 years. He demanded a budget of 240 million shekels for desalination and other projects. If the present dry weather continues, he warned, the cultivation of cotton and other field crops will have to be stopped altogether. In the meantime, he proposed cuts in the growing of groundnuts, maize, sunflower seeds, potatoes, onions, and carrots. Citrus groves and tropical fruit orchards would also have to be uprooted, Refa'el warned. [passage omitted]

Second Trial Launch of Arrow To Be Held 'Soon'

TA2812115890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Dec 90 p A1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Excerpt] The second trial launch of the Arrow missile will be held soon. This decision follows the completion of most of the repairs and improvements that were needed after the fault that occurred during the first launch in August.

The Air Force officer who was in charge of the launching operation at the time decided to send a self-destruct order to the missile, and it did not complete its planned trajectory. Differences of opinion later erupted between Israel Aircraft Industries engineers and Air Force personnel. The former claimed that there was no need to destroy the missile in mid-trajectory and that it could have been allowed to complete its course without causing any threat. [passage omitted]

Soldiers Jailed for Refusing Territories Service

TA2712090390 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 27 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Three more soldiers have been jailed for refusing to serve in the territories, a spokesman for Yesh Gvul [There Is a Limit] said yesterday. Lt. (res.) Yaron Rosenbaum of Tel Aviv was jailed for 15 days, Staff Sgt. Uri Rosenwachs of Ramat Gan for 22 days and a third soldier from Kibbutz Har'el, whose name was not disclosed, was jailed for 14 days. A total of 133 soldiers have now been jailed for refusing to serve in the territories.

Timing 'Inappropriate' for RSA Policy Change

TA2512101890 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 25 Dec 90 p A4

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has instructed the Construction and Housing Ministry to shelve the decision to purchase ready-made houses from two South African companies. It has been learned that the ministry decided to sign deals with the South African companies because their offers were cheaper than those submitted by U.S. and other companies.

About two weeks ago, upon his return from the United States where he was requested to temporarily delay the revoking of sanctions on new contracts with the Republic of South Africa [RSA], Shamir decided to cancel the deal. The prime minister's bureau stated last night that Israel will not purchase either ready-made houses or mobile homes from South Africa. In the course of his visit to the United States, Shamir received intimations from the U.S. Administration and from the Congress that Israel is requested not to hasten in the footsteps of the EC, which had decided to permit investment in South Africa.

Following a discussion at the Foreign Ministry, a resolution was adopted stating that the present time is inappropriate for amending the 1987 Cabinet resolution regarding steps against South Africa as a result of its apartheid policy. Consequently, the Foreign Ministry recommended that Israel abstain from purchasing South African houses. [passage omitted]

King Leaves for London, Other Capitals 2 Jan

JN0201111791 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman for London this morning as part of a tour of a number of European capitals. During the tour, his majesty will hold talks with European leaders within the framework of the continued efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn since the beginning of the Gulf crisis to find a political solution to the crisis and to save the region from a destructive war.

Context of Tour Viewed

JN0201080091 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Jan 91 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpts] Amman—The thrust of His Majesty King Husayn's talks this week with European leaders would be to develop an independent European Community (EC) effort towards resolving the five-month-old Gulf crisis as well as other problems of the Middle East, senior officials said Tuesday.

Confirming that the King was scheduled to leave for London Wednesday, the officials noted that foreign ministers of the 12- nation EC are to meet Friday under a German-French initiative to explore means to peacefully resolve the Gulf crisis, sparked by the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion and subsequent annexation of Kuwait and the American-led opposition to it.

The officials emphasised that the King's efforts should be seen against the backdrop of and complementary to other moves towards breaking the stalemate in American-Iraqi contacts over the crisis for a parallel Arab-Arab dialogue.

These efforts, the officials noted, involve Algeria in an Arab context and Yugoslavia in a Third Wold approach.

A senior official explained that the Jordanian approach to the Gulf crisis was based on four main points: Any solution to the problem should be based on international legitimacy; there should be a negotiated solution; Iraq's security, sovereignty and territorial integrity should be guaranteed and protected; and linkage should be established between the Gulf crisis and the Palestinian problem.

However, the official said referring to the fourth point, "We are not going to specify what timeframe or what sequence the efforts to resolve the two problems should follow."

"What is important now is to establish the principle," added the official, who preferred anonymity.

The official also underlined that the King's endeavours come amid efforts undertaken by Algerian President Chadli Benjedid and an initiative by the Non-Aligned Movement spearheaded by Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimar Loncar, who visited Baghdad last week.

According to a Royal Palace official, "the Europeans are moving and the Arabs also have to move now before it is too late."

The official said the King's first stop would be London, where he will meet with British Prime Minister John Major in the first encounter between an Arab head of state and the premier, who succeeded Margaret Thatcher last month.

According to the Royal Palace official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the King will also visit several other European capitals, including Luxembourg, Paris and Rome, but the exact intinerary would be finalised after his talks in London.

The King's renewed diplomacy comes ahead of a Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to relinquish Iraq or face war. [passage omitted]

According to the senior official, Jordan believes that the key to resolving the crisis lies on two parallel fronts which should be followed simultaneously.

"One is an American-Iraqi dialogue and the other is an Arab-Arab dialogue," the official told the Jordan Times.

Efforts for a U.S.-Iraq dialogue are deadlocked over conflicting positions by Washington and Iraq over the date for a visit to the Iraqi capital by American Secretary of State James Baker.

This is an area where the EC could play a significant role by exerting efforts with both sides to break the stalemate and "bring out a serious dialogue," says another Jordanian official. [passage omitted]

On the Arab front, the Jordanian official explained, the most significant element of Arab-Arab dialogue is a meeting between Saudi Arabia's King Fahd and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Benjedid, the Algerian president, visited Arab and European capitals last month in a bid to realise a Fahd-Saddam summit but made little headway after an initial Saudi enthusiasm appeared to have faded.

Not only Jordan but also several other Arab countries are still confident that a Saudi-Iraqi summit would serve as the key to open the deadlock and defuse the tension in the Gulf," the Jordanian official said. [passage omitted]

Source Cited on Mission

JN0101130391 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan will begin a European tour tomorrow that will take him to Britain, Germany, and Italy in an attempt by Jordan to break the deadlock in

the Gulf crisis and overcome the dead-ended efforts to have an Iraqi-U.S. dialogue.

The tour coincides with an EC foreign ministers' decision to meet in Luxembourg, which succeeds Italy to the EC chairmanship this year.

An authoritative Jordanian source told our radio that Amman hopes that the European countries will support the settlement formula proposed by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid calling for a compromise between Iraq's demand for linkage in all the region's problems and the American rejection of such a linkage.

The source said that Jordan does not view this linkage as a mechanical connection, but would like the application of the same standards to the region's problems and dealing with them in an all-encompassing manner. The source believes that none of the Middle East crises can be comprehensively and permanently solved with the presence of hotbeds of instability in the region.

The source added that Jordan feels that there is nothing to prevent getting two peaceful processes going in parallel. The source said the most important and basic issue is the Palestinian problem although the Gulf crisis is the more serious one.

Columnist Views Departure of Americans

JN0101121091 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Jan 91 p 1

["A Word" column by Jum'ah Hammad: "America Warns Its Nationals"]

[Text] The announcement repeatedly published in Jordanian newspapers on the departure of American nationals lacks good taste, faith, and wisdom, as there is a proverb that says: "If you are afflicted, do not run after disgrace."

What danger is the U.S. State Department warning its nationals in Jordan and other capitals in the region about? Is it not a danger that they created with their own hands by deploying troops in the peninsula and supporting the aggression against the Palestinian people who have been living in their rightful homeland for thousands of years?

What danger is the United States planning and seeking to put in motion, either to test its weapons on people or to safeguard its interests with the exploitation of this region's resources? What dangers are these that will use our people as fuel? And, when the fire is put out, the evacuees are expected to come back to their jobs and offices in our country and to be most welcome without showing shame or blinking an eye.

From what mold are our people made? I am referring to our people who have been acting on the saying of Jesus Christ, may God's peace be upon him: If someone slaps your right cheek, turn the other cheek. Why have our people not acted on the saying of 'Ali [the fourth caliph in Islam], whose face God spared from touching hellfire: "Throw the stone back from whence it came, as evil is only overpowered by evil."

The announcement is published everywhere the United States has made its target, every place encircled by its air and naval forces, and anywhere threatened by the United States with short-range and long-range missiles, nuclear and hydrogen missiles. The announcement is psychological warfare. It confirms the lack of respect the United States shows for the people it crushes with material and moral force once its superhuman nationals and agents, who prepare the groundwork for the dangers with which it threatens these people, sneak out of the country.

What then will the rulers of the peninsula say to the tribes of Mutayr? What will be their advice to the tribes of al-'Utban, al-Sharart, and Shammar? What will be their advice to the tribes, cities, and villages of Najd, which will face the certain death the United States is warning its citizens about, asking them to flee before the big event, whose scenario and dates have been set? Or are these Arabs like vermin, whose life or death means nothing to anybody?

The announcement, which makes every cell in every human being in the region cringe, should be internalized in our subconscious so that we can use it as a yardstick when we define cooperation with the United States and its politicians in general. As for those who depart, let them go and may they never return so that we can enjoy moonlit nights in the spring.

Mudar Badran Addresses Palestinian Rally

JN0101210091 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1810 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Jordanian and Palestinian popular organizations celebrated this evening the 26th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian national day. Prime Minister Mudar Badran addressed the rally, greeting the martyrs of the Palestinian people and strugglers of their revolution throughout the history of their struggle, and the mujahidin who are leading the intifadah, whose blood is watering the pure soil of their homeland. The prime minister reviewed the challenges facing the Palestine question and the Arab nation as a result of the intensive Jewish immigration and the foreign presence in the Gulf. He also reviewed the international double standards represented by the UN Security Council resolutions. Badran said:

[Begin Badran recording] We have seen how the Security Council, which is supposed to be an international body, deals with the issues of this region with two different standards. It issued tens of resolutions on the Palestine question; it was unable to impose one of them on Israel, which does not give a hoot for all these resolutions and refuses to comply with them; yet that council does not make a move or object to that. At the same time, we saw how the same council dealt with the Gulf crisis; it issued

successive resolutions, which it insisted on implementing with the force of weapons.

The UN Security Council earlier adopted tens of resolutions against Israel. It condemned its repressive measures against Palestinian children, women, elderly, and young people. Yet, that council did not even once sincerely attempt to impose any of its resolutions on Israel. Therefore, Israel always disregards international legitimacy, and challenges the will of the international community without fearing any reaction, or anticipating any form of punishment. We in Jordan, of steadfastness and mobilization, pledge to remain as Palestine has known us; its faithful soldiers, and faithful kinfolk [applause]. We share water, air, and bread. We also share the suffering across the banks of our dear river. We will be human torches if needed for this nation from the ocean to the Gulf until liberation is achieved, which is, God willing, very near. May God's protection be upon you. [end recording]

Badran Cabinet Reshuffled; New Posts Set

Resignations Submitted

JN3112094690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 31 Dec 90 pp 1, 2

[By JORDAN TIMES staff writer Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—Several members of the Cabinet have submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Mudar Badran ahead of a government reshuffle, expected as early as today, informed sources said Sunday.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Jordan Times that 11 ministers had submitted their resignations "ahead of time to pave the way for the prime minister to reshuffle the cabinet."

The source confirmed that Badran had reached an agreement with the Muslim Brotherhood for five cabinet posts. It will be the first time the Brotherhood, which has 22 members and at least seven other supporters in the Lower House, would be formally included in a Jordanian cabinet.

The five chosen by the premier were identified as deputies Yusuf al-'Azm, 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah and Majid Khalifah and Brotherhood activisits 'Adnan al-Jaljuli and Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani.

Two prominent leaders of the movement—Ishaq al-Farhan and Ahmad Qutaysh al-'Azayideh—will not be included in the new cabinet because the Muslim Brotherhood wants to retain them in the leadership council.

"The Brotherhood does not allow one of its leaders to become a member of the government," said a source.

"I would not attach any significance to the resignations other than that they are routinely submitted by government members whenever they think there is an impending cabinet reshuffle, said an official source who preferred anonymity.

Although a number of senior cabinet members have submitted their resignations, they are expected to remain in the cabinet.

However, several minister-deputies are expected to be replaced by some of their colleagues in the various blocs in the House.

Badran was expected to change some cabinet ministers in December but the exigencies of the Gulf crisis and the "prevailing atmosphere of caution prompted by a heightened sense that war was imminent in the Gulf" warranted the delay, said one official.

The tension in the run-up to the Jan. 15 deadline set by the U.N. Security Council for Iraq to leave Kuwait or face eviction by force, coupled with Iraqi warnings that Israel would be its first target in the event of a military conflict, was further underlined by reports that the Jordanian army was put on alert along the ceasefire line with Israel as precaution against any military adventure by the Israelis.

The reports were neither confirmed nor denied by the Jordanian government.

Israel's Chief of Staff Major General Dan Shomron Saturday apparently sought to cool down the tension by saying that Jordan had nothing to fear from Israel unless it allowed foreign forces on its territory, a clear warning against allowing Iraq to deploy troops in Jordan.

"There is no Iraqi military presence at all in Jordanian territory," said a senior Jordanian official Sunday.

Meanwhile, Badran was continuing negotiations with other blocs on the Lower House with a view to including every political stream and through in the government. But the premier will also be constrained to keep down the number of ministers from the same regions so as to maintain a regional balance in the executive authority.

Parliamentary sources said three members of the National Bloc—Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, 'Abdallah al-Nusur and Tahir al-Masri—will be included in the cabinet. While the sources confirmed that al-Surur and al-Masri were almost certain to be in the cabinet, talks were continuing on al-Nusur's inclusion.

Deputy 'Isa al-Rimuni will also join Badran's cabinet, according to parliamentary sources. al-Rimuni, who identified himself as spokesman for the Liberal Bloc in the House, has been expelled from the bloc apparently for agreeing to join the cabinet without consultations with the other members of the bloc, parliamentary soruces said.

The sources expected leftists to be "under-represented" in the cabinet.

Decree Reshuffles Government

JN0101164191 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] A royal decree has been issued approving the resignation of the following ministers as of 1 January 1991:

—His Excellency Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

—His Excellency 'Abd-al-Majid al-Shuraydah, minister of social development.

—His Excellency Dr. Muhammad Hamdan, minister of education and higher education.

—His Excellency Yusuf al-Mubayyidin, minister of justice.

—His Eminence Shaykh 'Ali al-Faqir, minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

—His Excellency Dr. Qasim 'Ubaydat, minister of labor.

—His Excellency Ibrahim al-Ghababishah, minister of youth.

—His Excellency 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of tourism and antiquities.

—His Excellency Nabil Abu-al-Huda, minister of transport and communications.

—His Excellency Dr. Sulayman 'Arabiyat, minister of agriculture.

The following royal decree has also been issued:

We, Husayn the First, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; taking cognizance of Article 35 of the Constitution, and upon the recommendation of the prime minister, decree the following:

—His Excellency Tahir al-Masri shall be appointed minister of foreign affairs.

—His Excellency Dr. Muhammad 'Addub al-Zabn shall be appointed minister of municipal, rural affairs, and environment.

—His Excellency Dr. Sa'id al-Tall shall be appointed minister of higher education.

—His Excellency 'Abd-al-Karim al-Dughmi shall be appointed minister of labor.

—His Excellency Engineer Dawud Khalaf shall be appointed minister of tourism and antiquities.

—His Excellency Dr. Khalid al-Karaki shall be appointed minister of culture and youth.

—His Excellency Yusuf al-'Azm shall be appointed minister of social development.

—His Excellency Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah shall be appointed minister of education.

—His Excellency Dr. Majid Khalifah shall be appointed minister of justice.

—His Excellency Jamal al-Sarayirah shall be appointed minister of transport and communications.

—His Excellency Sa'd Hayil al-Surur shall be appointed minister of water and irrigation.

—His Excellency Engineer Muhammad al-'Alawinah shall be appointed minister of agriculture.

—His Eminence Dr. Shaykh Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani shall be appointed minister of Awqaf and Islamic affairs.

—His Excellency Dr. 'Adnan al-Jaljuli shall be appointed minister of health.

Issued in Basman Palace on 15 Jumada al-Thani 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 1 January 1991.

The new ministers took the constitutional oath before His Majesty King Husayn at the Royal Hashemite Court this evening. The ceremony was attended by Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief al- Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, the king's political adviser 'Adnan Abu- 'Awdah, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Bin-Zayd, and Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah.

King Sends Message to Badran

JN0101204391 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 1 Jan 91

["Text" of King Husayn's message to Prime Minister Mudar Badran following government reshuffle on 1 January 1991]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Prime Minister Mudar Badran, may God preserve and protect him:

I take this opportunity to extend to you my greetings and appreciation, and to stress our confidence in you and your government, to which I wish all success in shouldering the responsibility and bearing the trust. I also wish your new colleagues who have joined this government success as they replace our brothers who have carried out their tasks and will carry out similar tasks in their positions among us, while stressing that wherever they bear the trust, they will be the subject of our appreciation, confidence, and pride. We will continue to remember all their efforts for this homeland, and all their concern. Your cabinet reshuffle is only an indication of the state's vitality as expressed by our democratic march, which we are experiencing and are proud of. We will continue to consolidate and protect it.

I wish you and all your colleagues all the best and determination. I also wish you all the success in the service of our dear homeland and proud people.

May God's peace be upon you. [signed] Your brother, al-Husayn, Amman on 15 Jumada al-Thani 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 1 January 1991.

New Cabinet Profiled

JN0201081991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Jan 91 pp 1,3

[Excerpts] Amman—Prime Minister Mudar Badran Tuesday reshuffled his one-year-old government by bringing in 10 new members into his cabinet and switching the portfolios of four serving members following the resignation of 10 ministers. [passage omitted]

Following the reshuffle, King Husayn sent a message to Badran stressing that the change of ministerial portfolios "reflects the vitality of the state as manifested by the democratisation process in Jordan and will no doubt help deepen and protect this march."

The King voiced his total confidence in Badran's government and wished its members full success in shouldering their responsibility.

"Those who had served in the government and now taken other responsibilities, he said, will always remain trusted and their works as a source of pride for the country.

Following are profiles of the new ministers:

Tahir al-Masri: Born in Nabulus in 1942. Completed his secondary education at al-Najah School before going to Texas University where he graduated with a degree in commerce in 1965.

Al-Masri had served as minister of foreign affairs as well as in other ministerial posts before he was elected as member of the Lower House of Parliament in November 1988 and later as head of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House.

Sa'id al-Tall: Born in Irbid in 1934. Finished high schoold in 1951 and obtained a degree in mathematics in 1957 and a doctorate in 1963. Served as minister of education. At present al-Tall is a member of the Upper House of Parliament.

'Adnan al-Jaljuli: Born in 1932 in Tulkarm, the West Bank. Graduated from Baghdad University in 1957. Worked for the Armed Forces as director of the military hospital in Marka and later director of the Islamic Hospital in Amman before starting private practice as an optician.

Jamal al-Sarayirah: Born in al-Hashimiyah, al-Karak in 1954. Secured a degree in English literature, Kuwait University (1967), and later a diploma in international law and relations from Wales University. Director of Aramco—Tapline office in Amman since 1982. Elected member of parliament in 1988 and as deputy speaker in November 1990.

Muhammad al-'Alawinah, member of the Lower House from Irbid Governorate. He is an engineer by profession.

Sa'id Hayil al-Surur, Member of the Lower House representing the Badia district in the al-Mafraq Governorate.

Majid Khalifah: Born in al-Salt in 1948. He holds a Ph.D. in law from the University of Cairo. He worked as deputy dean of the faculty of law at the University of Jordan and as a lawyer.

Dr 'Abdallah 'Ali al-'Akayilah: Born in 'Aymah in al-Tafilah Governorate. Attended secondary school in Tulkarm. Received a degree in management from University of Jordan in 1975, a masters degree in management from University of Southern California in 1978 and Ph.D. in management from University of Southern California in 1982.

Yusuf al-'Azm: Born in Ma'an in 1931. Graduated from al-Azhar University in Cairo with a degree in Arabic. Teacher of Islamic culture and Arabic literature at the Islamic Scientific College in Amman (1954-1962). Chief editor of al-Kifah al-Islami (Islamic struggle) newspaper from 1956 till 1958. One of the founders of al- Aqsa schools in Jordan. Was elected member of the Lower House for Ma'an Governorate in 1963 and again in 1967 and in 1988.

Ibrahim Zayd al-Kilani: Born in al-Salt in 1937. He got a Ph.D. degree in Islamic Tafsir (commentary) and the Koran from al-Azhar University in Egypt in 1973. He is a member of the Academy of Arabic, the Awqaf and Fatwa Council as well as the Muslim Brotherhood group.

Cabinet Posts Favor 'Islamists'

PM0201103391 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Dec 90 pp 1, 4

[Layla Dib report: "Jordanian Cabinet Reshuffle Day After Tomorrow; Islamists Get Seven Portfolios"]

[Excerpt] Amman—It was confirmed in Amman yesterday that the expected cabinet reshuffle in Jordan will take place the day after tomorrow and that the Islamists will get seven portfolios and the Nationalist Bloc will get two. This will be the first quasi-parliamentary cabinet in Jordan after long consultations resulting in fluctuating approval and rejection by one bloc or another.

An informed source has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Muslim Brotherhood will get the most important cabinet post it has sought, namely the education ministry, and it will go to al-Tufaylah deputy Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah. [passage omitted]

Support Urged for Cabinet

JN0201091491 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 2 Jan 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Reshuffle Deserves Benefit of the Doubt"]

[Text] It was not long after the Lower House of Parliament elected as its speaker Muslim Brotherhood spokesman 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat when Prime Miister Mudar Badran decided that the time had come to

incorporate the Brotherhood and other parliamentary blocs in his cabinet. The effort got underway immediately, but it was not until yesterday that it came to fruition. Today we have a government that is largely different from last year's and one that could play a major role in reshaping our internal politics.

Where things go from there, we can only surmise. People on the left naturally see and interpret the change differently from the rightists. Even mainstream Jordanian politicians cannot agree among themselves what the step will actually mean to Jordanian politics, now or in the future.

It all depends of course on what each political bloc, those represented in the reshuffled cabinet and those who are not, expect from the current phase, which is simply unclear and not final at best. Our current political life is governed by so many external factors that it is indeed difficult to untie our future from that of the region generally, and the strife-torn Arab world in particular.

It is in light of the Gulf crisis and the situation surrounding it—regionally and worldwide—that Mr. Badran's cabinet reshuffle took place. How much one can read into it politically, therefore, cannot be easily assessed. But one thing is certain: The prime minister, with his famous political acumen, must have felt the change was timely and needed for him ot have made it under the present circumstances.

For the first time in many years Jordan will be faced with a government make-up that is not totally homogenous. There is then a task for not only Mr. Badran but his colleagues as well to work on a common platform for tackling the country's problems, be they economic or social or political. Whether ranks, disparate as they seem to be in the cabinet itself, can be closed to confront the challenges facing us is actually one of the more important of those challenges. But we hope that it can be done for the benefit of the whole society.

We all are aware that this is another experiment in our continuing and lively democratisation process. And we want it to succeed at a reasonable price.

Only the future can tell whether Jordan's new coalition can hold together and still produce results. We ought to give it the benefit of the doubt, in the full knowledge that other alternatives exist and that no prime minister can please all people and politicians all the time.

Editorial Views New Cabinet

JN0201105991 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Jan 91 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The Parliamentary Blocs' Government"]

[Text] In his message to the prime minister yesterday, His Majesty King Husayn stressed that the cabinet reshuffle was an expression of the state's vitality and concern about the democratic course. Due to this reshuffle, the government will include the majority of the parliamentary blocs. So, we can say that Mudar Badran's current government is a national coalition government that has come as a result of the extensive consultations the prime minister has held with these parliamentary blocs and selected representatives from among their candidates to assume ministerial posts.

Before elaborating on the composition of the new government, we have to extend our greetings to the ministers who left their posts after they exerted every effort, carried the trust of duty to serve the homeland and the people, and moved to new positions to continue work for the good of Jordan and deepen and protect its democratic course, an object of our pride, as His Majesty King Husayn has emphasized.

We should be patient and follow up the efforts of this ministerial team before judging the makeup of Badran's new government. The meeting of most parliamentary blocs in one team is, in the first place, concrete evidence of our unequivocal option of democracy, and the existence of a government reflecting the current political pluralism in society and inside the House of Representatives is an opportunity for competition over better performance and carrying out the trust. Our citizens will follow up this competition with open eyes and minds.

Although harmony between the members of the executive and legislative authorities is a basis for fruitful public work, harmony among the members of the executive authority is the first step toward that basis.

We share every one the hope and confidence that the homeland, under the new government, will achieve all its aspirations through the efforts of the honest and loyal people and all workers. Such success will further our confidence in our democratic course and our eagerness to deepen and protect it and will also open the door wide for political pluralism, which will entrench our national charter and its bases and features.

Civil Defense Exercise Held on Cease-Fire Line

JN2912153890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] The Jordanian Civil Defense Department today carried out a civil defense exercise, evacuating casualties from a village on the Jordanian-Israeli cease-fire line. Sources close to the Jordanian military command say that military reinforcements vis-a- vis Israel were recently brought in as a precautionary measure against any Israeli military intervention in case an armed confrontation breaks out in the Gulf.

Other Exercises Noted

JN3012093690 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 30 Dec 90 p 2

[Text] Al-Shunah al-Shamaliyah-PETRA—The Civil Defense Department in al-Shunah al-Shamaliyah yesterday carried out an evacuation and fire-extinguishing exercise at the Mu'adh Ibn-Jabal Hospital.

The head of the department said that the exercise aimed at training hospital workers on how to evacuate emergency cases from the hospital and move injured persons to the evacuation site. Some 15 cases were moved to the center designated in the area as an evacuation site.

He added that this exercise is part of the Civil Defense plan in al-Aghwar al-Shamaliyah district which aims at training citizens and workers in government and private institutions on the various civil defense activities.

He added that the department has made the necessary contacts with the competent authorities in the area to set up voluntary civil defense groups comprising those who have been trained in defense, first aid, and fire fighting. He said that 5,620 citizens of both sexes were trained through 125 sessions held in the various areas of the district.

Security Sources Say Israeli Missiles in South

NC3012132390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] AFP has cited Lebanese security sources as saying that the Israeli occupation forces have deployed six surface-to-surface missiles in an Israeli-occupied area in southern Lebanon.

Israeli Planes Fly Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC0101060291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Israeli military planes overflew Sidon and the nearby Palestinian camps repeatedly last night, waging mock raids and dropping flares. Israeli gunboats were seen cruising off Lebanon's south coast.

Al-Hirawi's New Year Message to Citizens

NC3112132290 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has addressed a New Year message to the Lebanese people in which he reviewed events in the country last year. Referring to Greater Beirut, he said: We always loved Greater Beirut for its value. Now we also love it for its suffering and hopes.

President al-Hirawi added: We have always sought to break out of the siege that was imposed on the Lebanese will. When they imposed combat lines, we opened lines of communications among the areas and the values. When they imposed force, we raised the motto of peace as a policy.

Regarding the new government, the president said: Your new government will not hesitate to confront all current challenges. It has raised the motto of national reconciliation, forgetting old wounds, and rising above sensitivities. The participation of all of you in bearing the responsibility will greatly facilitate the task ahead.

Referring to the government's program, President al-Hirawi said it involves the attainment of a general and comprehensive reconciliation and completing the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement in a way that will safeguard Lebanon's independence and full sovereignty.

President al-Hirawi addressed a greeting to the Lebanese army. He said: Be assured that there will no weapons except yours. Confidence in your arms comes from your unity and devotion to the homeland's service.

President Urges Groups To Settle National Issues

NC3012094390 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi has called on all parties to sit at the same table and discuss the crucial national issues. He said that the first priority is for all the parties that fought among themselves in the past to recognize that the war is over and that they must shift their struggle to the arena of democratic practice. He pointed out that if the parties all arrive at this conviction, all reservations they may have about one another and all their apprehensions will evaporate.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-NIDA', al-Hirawi said that current efforts are aimed at translating the spirit of the national accord document into action. He noted that no party will be suppressed, but added that we will not allow the national accord to be used as a means for one party to dominate another.

Karami Issues Post-Cabinet Meeting Statement

NC3112132890 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Statement by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, followed by questions by unidentified correspondents; after cabinet meeting in Beirut; 31 December—recorded]

[Text] [Karami] The new cabinet held its first meeting today. His excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi opened the meeting by greeting the ministers and saying they have his full confidence to fulfill their mission. The meeting was frank and aimed at achieving the government's objectives. First among these objectives is clearing the atmosphere for national reconciliation, disbanding the militias, collecting weapons, introducing reforms to the administration, and starting the process of reconstruction and development. The ministers were briefed on the state's fiscal situation and on the need to continue the austerity policy. Most of the ministers spoke about their aspirations and what they would like to do within the framework of their cabinet portfolios.

The cabinet also discussed the Israeli attacks on southern Lebanon. It asked the foreign minister to send instructions to our ambassador in New York to lodge a complaint with the Security Council to protest Israel's barbaric acts and attacks on southern Lebanon.

All of us wished his excellency the president, the ministers, and the whole Lebanese people a happy holiday. We expressed the hope that 1991 will be the year of peace, security, prosperity, and unity for all Lebanese.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, has the cabinet formed a committee to draft a government statement?

[Karami] Yes, a committee has been formed to draft a government statement. The committee is composed of 'Umar Karami, 'Ali al- Khalil, Butrus Harb, Albert Mansur, Marwan Hamadah, and Shawqi Fakhuri. The committee will meet on Wednesday to prepare the government statement. The cabinet will then meet to discuss and approve the statement. Afterward, the cabinet will ask the Chamber of Deputies speaker to set a date for a parliamentary session as soon as possible for a vote of confidence.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Karami] We have signed the decree apppointing all the ministers. I hope they will all join together in the great work, which is to save Lebanon and start the march of peace, unity, and unification.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Karami] We believe that every objection or every demand or apprehension by anyone must be submitted for discussion at a cabinet meeting. I do not believe that any Lebanese, especially those in positions of responsibility now, will give up one iota of Lebanon's independence or will commit any act that does not contribute to Lebanon's unity and to the establishment of the Lebanese state in the manner we all wish.

[Correspondent] Mr. Prime Minister, have you asked anyone to mediate bringing back ministers [words indistinct]?

[Karami] As a cabinet, we have not asked anyone. In the decree which was issued, we asked everyone to contribute through formal and effective action and from the position of responsibility in order to remove all the obstacles and barriers and in order to end this anomalous situation in which we have been existing for the past 16 years.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Karami] This government has been established for the sake of reconciliation, and its slogan will remain reconciliation. It will continue to do its utmost for salvation. Everything else becomes internal details or internal struggle. We are interested in ending this anomalous situation at any price. Therefore, the cabinet held its first session today. I think this is sufficient to make it known that the government has [word indistinct]. We will, of course, include in the government statement all the objectives which we have already announced and which aim at clearing the atmosphere, achieving reconciliation, and adopting practical steps that will lead to salvation. In the face of a national task and national principles to be announced in the government policy statement, I do not think that any deputy or official can withhold confidence from this government.

[Correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Karami] This is up to the ministers. There is no formal authorization by the cabinet. This is a private affair undertaken by the ministers and has nothing to do with their official functions.

Buwayz Asked To Lodge Complaint Against Israel

NC3112141990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] The cabinet has asked Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to lodge an urgent complaint with the UN Security Council over the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

General 'Awn Reportedly Leaves for France

NC3012170290 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] The Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR reports that dissident General Michel 'Awn has left the French Embassy in Beirut and headed for France. The paper did not mention Gen. 'Awn's depareture date or the Lebanese authorities' stand on his departure. Former commander of the Lebanese army Gen. 'Awn took refuge in the French Embassy in Beirut after the Lebanese presidential palace was attacked in November.

Foreign Minister Urges Iraqi Withdrawal

JN3012073790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] Beirut—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has expressed Syria's concern over the fate of the Iraqi people and capabilities due to the Gulf crisis, which resulted from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In an interview with Lebanon's AL-DIYAR published today, he said: Syria has repeatedly expressed hope that Iraq would respond to peace calls and leave Kuwait for the sake of its kinfolk and people. In this context, he referred to President Hafiz al-Asad's speech at the extraordinary Cairo summit. He added: Out of this concern, Syria has always clearly called for the Iraqi forces' withdrawal from Kuwait because it is the only key to spare the Iraqi people the expected dangers of the military option. The minister referred to Syria's firm positions on the Iraq-Iran war, which became understood and appreciated by all.

In his response to a question on the Arab initiatives on the Gulf crisis, the minister said: All these Arab initiatives failed to achieve Iraq's approval to withdraw, thus, Iraq itself has foiled these initiatives.

On the ultimatum set by the Security Council for the Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, al-Shar' said that this date is the beginning of a new stage fraught with danger, while expressing hope that Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait before that date.

On linking the Gulf crisis to the Palestine question, the foreign minister noted that when Iraq invaded Kuwait, Palestine was not on the mind of the Iraqi leadership. He said: If the Iraqi leadership was sincere in facing Israel, it, more than others, knows the correct road to attain this aim. He added: If linking the Gulf crisis to the Palestine question leads to the liberation of Palestine, we would not have hesitated for a moment in approving this linkage, regardless of others' positions on it. The minister said that our study of the linkage idea clearly stresses that it will not be in the interest of the Palestine question, because Iraq is surrounded by the international community and is unable to extend any positive help in resolving the Palestine question. On the contrary, Iraq's action will be an excuse and justification for the Israeli occupation of Palestine and Arab land. In addition, the Arab states, especially those in the Gulf, are more preoccupied, whether we like it or not, with the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait than the Israeli occupation of the Arab land.

Al-Shar' emphasized that Syria believes that Iraq's complete withdrawal from Kuwait will help restore the Palestinian Arab people's usurped rights. It will also help liberate the Arab land in accordance with the UN resolutions.

Paper Criticizes Iraqi Regime's 'Megalomania'

JN2812132690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 28 Dec (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has said that recklessness has its limits, which the Baghdad rulers would do well to understand before it is too late, and that the rapid passage of time and the approaching deadline fixed by the UN Security Council cannot be subjected to further deception, obscurantism, and arrogance.

In a commentary today, the newspaper reviewed the Iraqi regime's stalling, procrastination, and illusions with respect to the UN Security Council resolutions and said: This regime continues to indulge in its heedlessness and intransigence, keeping up its maneuvers, and has wasted the last opportunity given to it by Resolution No. 678, which made it possible for the Iraqi regime to correct its mistake and begin to withdraw from Kuwait.

The paper said: The Baghdad rulers are belittling this opportunity at difficult times when the countdown for the end of the warning period is expiring. They are continuing their war of words and are wittingly or unwittingly ignoring the fact that matters are passing over the razor's edge and that, with each day that passes without progress in terms of what the Iraqi regime should declare; namely, its acceptance of the principle of withdrawal from Kuwait, brings the region closer to the brink of disaster and explosion.

The paper asked: If these rulers imagine that they can flex their muscles in the face of the Arab will and hold in contempt pan-Arab principles and conventions, how can they raise their voice higher than the international will? Is this a sort of megalomania, or is it a psychological and mental disturbance that leads to suicide?

Concluding its comment, AL-THAWRAH warned the Iraqi rulers against forgetting or ignoring the passage of time because the disaster is now very close. The moment of truth is approaching: either withdrawal or war.

Talas Criticizes Saddam for Damaging Arab Unity

PM2912150190 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 24 Dec 90 p 4

[Jamal al-'Anzi and Ahmad Basha report: "Reassuring the Kuwaitis and Attacking Saddam, King Husayn, and 'Arafat, Talas says: The Syria-Egypt-Saudi Arabia Triangle Will Allow No Gains for Those Who Do Not Respect the Arab Nation"]

[Text] Damascus—Syrian Armed Forces Deputy Commander in Chief and Defense Minister General Mustafa Talas has emphasized that Syria would stand against any plot hatched against the Arab nation and its interests.

In a statement to SAWT AL-KUWAYT after his lecture the day before yesterday, Saturday, at the Culture Palace under the title "Spotlight on the Arab Gulf Events," he

assured the Kuwaiti people that their country would be restored to them complete and undiminished and that legitimate authority would be restored to that fraternal Arab country.

He emphasized that the Syria-Egypt-Saudi Arabia triangle would allow no gains for those who do not respect the Arab nation and its causes. In his lecture, which won an enthusiastic attendance, Gen. Talas said the Gulf crisis was one of the most difficult in the Arab nation's history. He stressed that Saddam Husayn wanted to be the region's policeman and that Saddam Husayn's personality did not inspire reassurance, as his appearance did not inspire confidence. He reviewed Syrian-Iraqi relations since 1968, recalling that Saddam Husayn ruled the country indirectly for 10 years and directly ever since. He affirmed that former Iraqi President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr was a unity man and that Arabism was in his blood, whereas Saddam had nothing to do with the Arabs or Arabism, had killed anyone who sympathized with Syria after he overthrew al-Bakr, not sparing even his own office director, and had hatched plots as a way out of the commitments he made to Syria.

Gen. Talas spoke about the eight-year Iraq-Iran war which cost the two countries thousands of casualties and wasted both countries' resources which could have been used against our main enemy, Israel. He added: Saddam put some people under the illusion that the liberation of Palestine would come through the occupation of Kuwait. Yasir 'Arafat, who is considered more Zionist than Saddam, believed him .. 'Arafat used to beg the Gulf leaders to get him an entry visa to the United States so that he could make a speech there, forgetting that speeches should be made through the muzzle of a gun.

Gen. Talas said that King Husayn had also joined Saddam and 'Arafat, changing his skin and becoming anti-American even though for 22 years he was an employee of U.S. intelligence, from which he was later dismissed and from which he received $750,000 annually under the name of Norman. He noted that Saddam, King Husayn, and 'Arafat recently discovered that they were anti-American, but 'Arafat did everything the United States wanted him to do.

Syria, Gen. Talas said, is the leader of the struggle against Israel, and if Saddam had really wanted to liberate Palestine he should have joined hands with Syria.

On the next Gulf crisis scenario, he said that Iraq would withdraw from Kuwait before the set deadline but would keep parts of it, including al-Rumaylah oilfield and some other parts of Kuwaiti territory, and try to lease Warbah and Bubiyan islands. He pointed out, however, that Saddam was now negotiating to save his own head.

He said that President al-Asad's presence in the region would prevent the completion of Saddam's game, adding that the Arab summit and UN Security Council resolutions must be implemented fully.

Concluding his lecture, he said the Syrian forces were in Saudi Arabia for the defense of Saudi Arabia, emphasizing that the Syrian Army would never participate in the destruction of the Iraqi Army.

He also said that Saddam had killed four army commanders who could have played a major part in our war with the Zionist enemy. The future, he affirmed, belongs to the Arabs, when nobody will be able to play games behind our backs and the Arabs will emerge from this crisis victorious against the enemies who have tried to divert the Arab struggle into endless labyrinths.

Commentary Says Gulf Crisis Benefits Israel

JN2812154090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Recently, there has been a conspicuous escalation of stands on the Gulf crisis after the Iraqi regime's recalcitrance has reached the point where the dangers of a military face-off have become very likely, and after Baghdad has closed all doors that were opened to it by the Arabs and the world so as to enable it to heed the call of duty and justice and withdraw from Kuwait and spare the region and the world the calamity of war, whose drums have been heard in the region for the past five months.

What has also become prominent amid this escalation is the growth of the Israeli role. This role has recently increased to the extent that it appeared as a voice through which we heard a heated, suspicious dialogue run by the propaganda and misleading apparatuses in Tel Aviv, in harmony with the propaganda apparatuses in Iraq, through a poisonous game whose aim is to depict the crisis now as though it were a crisis between Baghdad and Tel Aviv, beneath which the face of Kuwait disappears, along with the pan-Arab dimension of the Gulf crisis. All this is happening at a time when the world has almost run out of patience toward the crime of invading Kuwait, and when the region has come near to paying the heavy duty incurred by the invasion, which was one of the many objectives this invasion had envisaged.

Iraq, in the opinion of those who are near and far, was not in need of occupying Kuwait, wiping it off the map, displacing its people and confiscating their rights, so as to direct its weapons, as it is claiming today, toward Israel, and declare the course of war as it is propagating now in defense of the pan-Arab cause. This is because Kuwait is far away from Israel and it does not lead to the direction of Tel Aviv. Also, Israel has always been an imminent danger to Kuwait inasmuch as it is a danger to all Arabs.

Why, then, is Iraq hauling its weapons and hardware today to Kuwait for the military adventure in which it claims to be targeting Israel in the end and in defense of Arab rights? Having found an opportunity in the Gulf

crisis, Israel, likewise, has begun to view Iraqi disobedience of international law as a backup to its disobedience of UN resolutions, resolutions which have received interest in fanning the flame of the crisis and pouring oil on it to increase Iraqi intransigence, and so that the whole region will fall into the pit which separates two fires: The fire of recalcitrance, which the Baghdad position still embraces, closing all windows on itself refusing to obey any international resolution that calls on it to withdraw from occupied Arab territories; and the fire of the bloody explosion which is threatening the region on the land of the Arabs and in the center of their lands, making the nation pay a heavy price for the senseless move which portrayed for its perpetrators in Baghdad the occupation of Kuwait as if it were a wide-open window to an eternal glory. What glory is that which the Baghdad regime will gain in the eyes of its nation while it pushes it into a dark tunnel, whose gains and results will be reaped by Israel only? What glory, moreover, will Iraq and the nation win when Iraq and the nation are burned by the fire of a war in which Iraq and the nation have no vested interest, and which will benefit only the Zionist enemy, which is waylaying the Arabs and hatching plots against them?

The element of deceit in the events taking place around us today will not prevent Arabs from seeing the reality of the situation which touched off the crisis that is today threatening the Arabs' present and future with the worst possibilities. The Arabs will never forget, whatever heavy clouds hang in their skies today, that Israel's way has never been, and is not today, in the direction of Kuwait. This is because Israel, which has found its opportunity today in the Gulf crisis and capitalized on the Iraqi crime at the expense of all Arabs, will, in the end, reap only defeat, because it rests on a false wall to defeat a just edifice. The edifice of justice, however, has throughout history been stronger than all falsehoods, and will always remain so.

Execution of Amnestied Jewish Underground Urged

JN3012211790 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Excerpts] Brother strugglers: Hayim Herzog, president of the Zionist entity, has issued what is called an amnesty for members of one of the Israeli gangs to kill the human race—gangs to kill Arabs in the occupied Arab territories—after seven years they spent in what is called an Israeli prison. They were sentenced to what is in turn called a life sentence. [passage omitted]

The significance of this Israeli Government crime is multiplied if we take into account that it comes in the wake of several dangerous factors and situations, among which are the following: This criminal Israeli amnesty comes in the midst of the Wadi Hunayn and the holy al-Aqsa mosque massacres; second, this criminal Israeli amnesty comes while four Palestinian Arabs are being deported from their occupied Arab Palestinian land; and third, this criminal Israeli amnesty coincides with the influx of Jewish emigrants and Israeli military preparations for aggression against the Arabs. The Qiryat Araba' settlers in Galilee, the gang members that Hayim Herzog granted amnesty to, will be given a heroes welcome in Qiryat Araba'—heroes by Israeli standards, but cowards and despicable people by true humanitarian standards.

The meaning of these actions is very clear. It is a frantic Israeli campaign to terrorize the intifadah and its people. This is what Israel wants. Hence, Israel must listen to the opinion of the Palestinian Arab people. It is not a lengthy opinion, but it is very clear and precise. The Palestinian Arab people believe that execution is the just and appropriate punishment for these despicable Israeli murderers. This punishment is a Palestinian Arab punishment; more precisely, it is a just punishment and will be executed by either Palestinian knives, Palestinian hammers, or any appropriate Palestinian Arab means. This sentence will be carried out against the Qiryat Araba' criminals themselves, or against any Zionist who drinks from the same racist Zionist quagmire—the quagmire of contempt for the Arab nation, usurpation of Arab rights, and disregard for Palestinian Arab blood.

Israeli 'War Government' Similar to June 1967

JN2912094190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 29 Dec 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "War Government," TISHRIN writes in its "Behind the News" column: There is no doubt that Israel's use of the Gulf crisis, as practiced by the enemy government, is not only a source of concern and condemnation, but is indicative of aggressive Israeli intentions that cannot be ignored or disregarded. Embodied as they are in several practices, these intentions place the region on the brink of a serious explosion threatening peace and security and pushing the Middle East toward a war with unpredictable destructive results and effects.

TISHRIN adds: If we were to review some of these aggressive Israeli intentions, we would point to the enemy leaders' unprecedented hysterical campaign of threats against the Arabs. There is also the bringing in of more immigrants, the persistent policy of oppression against the intifadah, the mobilization of Israeli forces along the cease-fire lines with Jordan, and the announcement by Zionist officials that they intend to form a war government in Israel. Does all this not mean that Israel will perpetrate, or is preparing for, an aggressive adventure, using the Gulf crisis as cover?

It is no coincidence, says the paper, that the formation of a war government should be accompanied by intensive military buildup against Jordan, especially since there was a similar experience on the eve of the June 1967 aggression against the Arab nation, when Begin, the Likud leader, joined Eshkol's Labor government, and

Israel perpetrated its aggression at that time. Now Shamir gives his consent to the formation of such a government and Peres says that the current situation dictates that we think of forming such a government.

TISHRIN concludes: Apart from vigilance and alertness to Israel's aggressive policy, the Arabs must be ready for every eventuality the enemy may be pondering.

Al-Zu'bi Replies to Deputies During Session

JN3112180190 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The People's Assembly concluded its second ordinary session of its fifth legislative term with a session this morning under Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi; his two deputies for services and economic affairs; and ministers attended.

In this session, the Assembly listened to the government's reply to the remarks, opinions, suggestions, and questions of the deputies on the government's policy statement concerning its working plan and the methods to implement its various programs. [passage omitted].

The speaker of the People's Assembly declared the session adjourned until the next session at 1600 on Saturday, 16 February, 1991.

Also in the session, the assembly listened to a speech made by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

In his speech, the prime minister shed light on a number of sectors raised by the [deputies'] remarks. In the area of agriculture and irrigation, the prime minister explained that agriculture is no longer treated as a slogan, but—thanks to the early plans, the available requirements, the invested funds, irrigated areas, and organized measures—has become a concrete reality in Syria, whose outcome is reflected in the sons of the Syrian countryside, and in their production and income. He pointed out that investments have begun to increase; water dams and projects have spread everywhere; irrigated expanses cover tens of thousands of hectares annually; and prices of produce change every season according to the needs of Syria, and in harmony with world prices. [passage omitted]

In the industrial sector, the prime minister noted how the government has tackled the issues noted by the deputies in their remarks. The prime minister said that the export policy of the industrial public sector has proven its feasibility and efficacy in achieving gradual self-reliance for this sector to ensure its needs in foreign currency, activate its available energies, and achieve a noticeable rise in production. He also noted the concomitant results of this policy; namely, improving the financial situation of workers through offering production incentives. This has also led to improving the quality of products, adapting them to the specifications required by foreign markets, and creating a suitable atmosphere for competition through offering prices in harmony with the actual cost. [passage omitted]

The prime minister also noted what was discussed by some deputies in their remarks on domestic trade. He said that the supply situation is stable and there is an abundance of basic goods, after these were allowed to be imported by various means. He added: The government has given special attention to this in view of its direct relation to the lives of the citizens. He also noted that the government has given priority to providing these goods and commodities when using the country's resources of foreign currency. Furthermore, the prime minister noted the continued support of the state for basic goods, and said that the government is seeking to specify prices in the domestic market, and reinforce supply supervision. [passage omitted]

Algerian, Syrian Ministries Issue Joint Statement

JN2812174290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Algerian Religious Affairs Minister Dr. Said Chibane and his accompanying delegation left Damascus at noon today after a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic which lasted four days. Upon his departure from Damascus for home, the Algerian minister praised the results of his visit and meetings with ranking Syrian officials, and the talks he held on strengthening Syrian-Algerian cooperation. He also praised the achievements realized under the wise leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in the various fields, including those in awqaf, science, and Islam.

In a joint statement issued today, the two sides expressed their appreciation for the fraternal bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in the various fields, whose roots were solidified by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Chadli Bendjedid.

They condemned the Zionist measures, whose objective is to judaize the city of Jerusalem, and the oppressive measures against our people and kinfolk in occupied Palestine and the Golan Heights. They also condemned Israeli attempts to destroy our glorious Islamic heritage and distort the facts of history to judaize the region.

The statement called on all Arabs and Muslims to rise to the level of serious action to save the Islamic shrines, and prevent the judaization of Jerusalem, destruction of the blessed al-Aqsa Mosque, and eradication of their Islamic character.

The two sides affirmed their support and backing for our Palestinian Arab peoples' intifadah in occupied Palestine, and called for obliterating the Zionist plots.

UAE Delegation, Minister Discuss Negotiations

JN3012220690 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1610 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] Damascus, 29 Dec (SANA)—Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, discussed here today with Shaykh Humayyid Bin-Ahmad al-Mu'alla, minister of planning in the United Arab Emirates

[UAE], and his delegation, the results of the talks agreed upon by both the Syria and the UAE.

Talks during the meeting also dealt with the plans and experiments of the Syrian Arab Republic in the field of planning for economic and social growth and means of developing and bolstering relations of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries in these fields.

Kuwaiti Ministers Depart Damascus 28 Dec

JN2812173390 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Damascus—Shaykh Jabir 'Abdallah al-Jabir al-Sabah, Kuwaiti minister of social affairs and labor; and Muhammad Nasir al-Hamdan, Kuwaiti minister of awqaf and Islamic affairs, left Damascus at noon today after a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic lasting several days during which they met with ranking Syrian officials and held talks on strengthening fraternal relations and entrenching joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

USSR Receives Fruit as 'Appreciation' Gift

JN2812151090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Latakia—Syrian cargo planes have begun transporting citrus fruits to the Soviet Union as a gift from the Syrian Arab people to the Soviet peoples on the occasion of Christmas and New Year, and in expression of the Syrian Arab people's great appreciation for the friendly Soviet peoples. Supply and Internal Trade Minister Hassan al-Saqqa and Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov visited Latakia yesterday to inspect preparations for the transportation process, which will take place from Latakia Airport to the Soviet Union.

The Soviet ambassador in Damascus expressed his thanks for Syria's initiative and assistance, and praised the friendship that links the Soviet Union with Syria. He said: This friendship is built on deep-rooted foundations, and is growing and strengthening in the interest of the two friendly peoples and countries.

Afghanistan

Alliance With India Against Pakistan Suggested

BK0101160091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] The Afghan president, Dr. Najibullah, has said that India and Afghanistan could join hands to contain the activities of Pakistan in both the countries. He told the visiting Indian commerce minister, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy, that his country will not tolerate such blatant activities by Pakistan.

Dr. Swamy, who is on a three-day visit to Kabul, had an hour-long meeting with Dr. Najibullah today. Dr. Swamy signed a memorandum of consultations with his Afghan counterpart covering the areas of cooperation in the field of joint ventures. The commerce minister, who held wide-ranging talks with the Afghan authorities, including the Afghan Chambers of Commerce, identified several areas of possible economic cooperation.

Najibullah on Tribal, Local Commander Roles

LD2712165790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this afternoon with a number of commanders of tribal and local units. The meeting was held in the president's office.

The military section of BAKHTAR reports that a few verses from the holy Koran were first recited by one of the tribal commanders. Esteemed Najibullah, in the course of general conversation, then expressed appreciation for the active participation of the tribal and local units in realizing the policy of national reconciliation, maintaining peace and security in the country, and rebuffing attacks by armed extremists. Drawing the attention of the commanders to their duties and responsibilities, he said: The role of tribal and local units and their work and activity alongside other units of the armed forces are considerable. The tribal and local units are playing a valuable role in maintaining the conditions of peaceful life for the people and realizing the aims of national reconciliation, in cooperation with other organs.

Esteemed Najibullah added: The majority of tribal and local units are carrying out effective work for establishing contacts with the opposition groups and promoting interest in the policy of national reconciliation. This has been a good experience, which should be maintained. Because a majority of the local and tribal units live inside villages and localities, they understand better the language, traditions and customs of the people and therefore they can convey realities to the people in a better manner and invite them to the path of righteousness, the path of peace, and the cessation of the fratricidal war.

Esteemed Najibullah also spoke about the existing shortcomings and defects and issued appropriate instructions to responsible authorities in this regard.

Najibullah on Future Role of Zahin Shah

LD3012164190 Hamburg DPA in German 1519 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Bonn (DPA)—Afghanistan President Najibullah has emphasized that his government seeks a political solution in the civil war-torn country. "We wish to realize democracy, guarantee a free market economy and human rights," Najibullah said in the Bonn-published daily DIE WELT (Monday edition).

Concerning the question of elections and a possible role for the former Afghan King, Zahir Shah, who lives in Rome, Najibullah said the overwhelming majority of his party has accepted the policy of national reconciliation and therefore also supports the relinquishing of the monopoly of power. The former king could make an important contribution to peace in order to achieve a political leadership acceptable to all Afghans.

Earlier this month the Afghan embassy in London had already said Najibullah was prepared to share his power with moderate groups such as the ex-king. However, he would not totally give up power in favor of Zahir Shah.

An edited version of the interview was prereleased to DPA.

President Ends Amity Organization's Activities

LD2312033590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Instruction by Afghan President Najibullah on discontinuation of the activities of the Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan under its existing formation and structure]

[Text] As the Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization of the Republic of Afghanistan has not yet passed the stage of registration in accordance with the law, and since, in practice, this organization lacks a legal basis and hence its activities remain beyond legal foundation, the following instructions have been issued in order to implement the provisions of the Constitution and the law on social organizations:

The activities of the above organization should be ended under the existing formation and structure. Every future approach in this respect should take place only through legal channels.

In order to implement the above arrangement, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan has been instructed to register and itemize the assets and property of this organization as soon as possible and to take steps to hand over the above to the government.

The Council of Ministers is also being instructed to take immediate steps to find employment in relevant ministries for employees of this organization. They will be introduced to the Ministry of Labor and Social Security in accordance with their education, experience, and merit.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Demobilization Begins in Army Ranks

LD2312070490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 23 Dec 90

[Text] Kabul, Dec 22 (BAKHTAR)—The demobilisation term of the soldiers and non-commissioned officers of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] started on Dec. 22, 1990 thoughout the country in accordance with the order of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and Supreme Commander of the RA's Army, as well as RA defence minister, Full General Modh Aslam Watanjar, said Major General Mohammad Sarwar Rafiq, head of the Organisation Department of the Ministry of Defence in an interview with a BAKHTAR military correspondent today. He added that those personnel of the Army who have passed three or more than three years in the ranks of the Armed Forces of the country will be demobilised in the different categories as per the directives of the presidential office and that of the Defence Ministry till the end of the current Afghan yekr ending March 20, 1991.

AIG Pleges To Continue Jihad on Invasion Anniversary

BK2812113190 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 28 Dec 90 p 1, 10

[Text] Islamabad, Dec. 27—The 11th anniversary of the Afghan Jihad against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan on Dec. 27, 1979 was commemorated in a mammoth meeting in Jalozai Camp, Peshawar, on Thursday morning.

The meeting, which was organised by the Ministry of Information, AIG [Afghan Interim Government], headed by Prof. A.R.R. Sayyaf, Prime Minister Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, Minister for Reconstruction, Cabinet Members, members of the Supreme Court, Ulema, government officials, some Ansar Pakistani brothers, and tens of thousands of refugees, attended the gathering.

Prof. Sayyaf, in his speech, emphasised the continuous struggle of falsehood against truth. He noted that the Red Army troops invaded Afghanistan because the Russian agents under Daud, Taraki and Amin had failed to crush the Islamic movement. Pointing to Russia's 300 million dollars per month aid to the Kabul regime he said it showed that the Russians and other enemies of Islam were determined to prevent the establishment of an Islamic government in Afghanistan. He said Saudi Arabia and Kuwait by extending 4,000 million dollar and 500 million dollar aid to Russia, respectively, have supported the enemy of Islam.

Prof. Rabbani, in his speech, emphasised the positive consequences of the Russian invasion of Afghanistan. He noted that it was the beginning of the end of communism in the world and the Russian imperialism in its occupied territories.

Prof. Rabbani added that inspiration from Afghanistan Jihad has revived the Palestinian struggle and has encouraged the Kashmiri brothers to wage a struggle for their emancipation. He expressed regrets that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait were sending billions of dollars of aid to Russia while the Afghan oppressed people were suffering from drought and starvation.

At the end a resolution adopted by the meeting was read by Dr. Najibullah Lafraie Minister, for Information. The resolution emphasises the continuation of Jihad until the elimination of all signs of atheism and communism and establishment of an Islamic order in Afghanistan.

The resolution condemns Israeli and Indian atrocities on Muslims and expresses its support to the just struggles of Muslims in Palestine, Kashmir, the Philippines, Eritrea and other occupied Muslim lands. It demands withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and evcuation of non-Muslim forces from Saudi Arabia.

Our Peshawar bureau adds: The Hezb-e-Eslami Afghanistan has condemned what it described the plots of USA, USSR and their lackeys for the restoration of the treacherous and criminal old faces and their imposition on the Afghan people.

In a resolution released on the eve of the 11th anniversary of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan it supported the cause and struggles of the people of Kashmir, Palestine and other liberation movements. It also appealed to the brotherly and friendly governments to refrain from giving any aid to USSR as the humanitarian aid was misused for tyranny and aggression in Afghanistan.

The AFghan Mujahidin also held public meetings and took out protest processions to mark the occasion.

Bangladesh

Ershad's Jatiya Party To Contest Elections

BK0101130691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1302 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Excerpts] Dhaka, Jan 1 (AFP)—The Jatiya Party (JP) of Bangladesh's ousted President Hussain Mohammad Ershad will contest the February 27 parliamentary elections, the party's acting chief said here Tuesday.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury said he had asked party members to submit applications seeking nomination for the elections by January 5 because he was determined to go to the polls even if Mr. Ershad were not freed. [passage omitted]

Mr. Chowdhury, once a prime minister in Mr. Ershad's Cabinet, told a group of journalists during celebrations of the fifth anniversary of the founding of the JP that the party

"wants to participate in the polls as we are the immediate past ruling party and one of the largest in the country.

"Our absence could raise questions about the fairness of the voting," he said.

He pledged the JP would not do anything that would jeopardise the democratic process.

On its past role, he said the JP "begs forgiveness" from the people if "we have done anything wrong, and we are ready to rectify ourselves."

Mr. Chowdhury, who took charge as acting JP chairman Monday, said the party was ready to accept arrests and trials of allegedly corrupt members but would not accept detention under the 1974 Special Powers Act.

"Wanted JP ministers and officials should surrender to the authorities and face trial instead of remaining in hiding, which is tarnishing the image of the party," he said.

Asked about allegations against several top JP leaders, he said the party was studying the charges, but quickly added that charges of corruption and abuse of power against Mr. Ershad would not stand up in a fair trial.

He said sordid stories about Mr. Ershad's mistresses would not hamper the party's position in the elections.

"We have done more constructive work during our nearly nine-year rule than any other political party of Bangladesh," he said.

He said Acting President Shahabuddin Ahmed should take steps to stop unnecessary harassment of JP supporters, formulate a code of conduct for the elections and create an open environment to enable the JP to contest the polls.

Mr. Chowdhury said he would hold talks with the acting president soon.

The interim government has not banned the JP from contesting the polls but has issued arrest warrants against some top JP officials. It has already arrested the former vice president, deputy prime minister and home minister, all JP members.

President Assures University Group on Polls

BK2912164290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has (?assured) his government will take all legal measures necessary to ensure peaceful atmosphere for holding free, fair and neutral elections. He was talking to a delegation of the Dhaka University Central Students Union, DUCSU, at his office this morning. DUCSU Vice President Amanullah Aman and General Secretary Khairul Kabir Khokan led the 14-member delegation. The acting president said under no circumstances the government will tolerate any malpractices and disturbances in holding free and fair poll. Election offenses, he said, will be dealt with severely. The DUCSU delegation appealed to the president to strengthen the present drive to recover illegal arms and [create] necessary conditions to ensure peaceful polls. The delegation placed an eight-point demand before the acting president. The demands include setting up special tribunals to try deposed President Ershad and his associates, [words indistinct] immediate arrest of his ministers and close associates and neutrality in (?cultural performances) over radio and television.

Cash, Weapons Recovered From Ershad Home

BK0101163291 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] An eight-member committee led by the chief metropolitan magistrate of Dhaka has recovered cash (?amount) of about 2 crore taka from the Dhaka cantonment residence of former President Ershad. The other articles recovered from his house include 16 firearms of which eight with no licence. Besides 164 electric goods, 971 pieces of gold and 2,614 miscellaneous articles have been recovered from the residence of the deposed president.

Soviet Ambassador Meets Acting President

BK0101131691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Ambassador of the Soviet Union in Bangladesh V.S. Smirnov called on the acting president in Dhaka Tuesday [1 January]. The ambassador congratulated Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on behalf of the people and the Government of the Soviet Union on his assumption of office of the acting president. He hopes that Bangladesh will march toward democracy by holding free and fair elections under his leadership.

The acting president recalled with thanks Soviet support to Bangladesh's liberation war and assistance for rebuilding the war-ravaged economy.

India

No Plans for Evacuating Nationals From Gulf

BK3112161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] India's contingency plan to face the effects of war in the Gulf does not include the evacuation of Indian nationals in the region at present. This was stated by the official spokesman in Delhi.

The government has advised the Indian nationals residing in the Gulf countries to move out their families before the 15th of January. The advice was communicated through Indian missions last week.

Ther are over 1,329,000 Indian nationals in seven countries of the region. But there has not been any significant movement of them recently.

Gulf Crisis Commission Defers on Plan Outlay

BK2912102990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] The Planning Commission has deferred for some time its decision on finalizing the overall outlay for the eighth five-year plan. This is because of the changed economic scenario after the Gulf crisis.

The member secretary of the commission, Mr. A.N. Verma, told newsmen in New Delhi that the three-member committee headed by the prime minister is continuing discussion on the issue. The committee has already taken some tentative decision on the 1991-92 outlay for the states.

The previous commission had decided on an overall outlay of 610,000 crore rupees for the eighth five-year plan, which was later approved by the National Development Council. But the new commission has indicated that the eighth plan size might have to be cut due to a resources crunch, following the Gulf crisis and the mounting deficit.

Shekhar Speaks on Border, Punjab, Shrine Issues

BK2412091690 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Dec 90

[Text] The sealing of the Indo-Pak border in Punjab will be completed by March next year. This was disclosed by the prime minister at a news conference in (Panawadi) village near Pune in Maharashtra yesterday. He said the government will announce a package of measures on Punjab next week. He hoped there would be a positive response from the other side. The prime minister reiterated that he did not rule out the possibility of amending the constitution to solve the problem but asserted that the abrogation of the constitution is not acceptable.

Replying to a question, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there is no need to review the country's nuclear options. India is ready to meet any eventuality. He hoped even if Pakistan possses an atom bomb, it will not use the same.

On the Ayodhya issue, the prime minister said no step will be taken until an agreement is reached among the parties concerned. A meeting has been fixed for the 10th of next month.

The prime minister described the price situation as very bad and urged the industry and trade to cooperate in bringing down the prices.

Shekhar Addresses Partymen on National Issues

BK2712145790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has said that the government is ready to go to any length to solve the Punjab problem, but within the framework of the Constitution. He said amendment to the Constitution should be to redress the genuine grievances of the people, but not at the cost of unity and integrity of the country. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was addressing the Janata Dal-S [Socialist] parliamentary party in New Delhi this morning. He welcomed the readiness of the Akali [Sikh] parties to talk with the government and the moves for their unity.

On Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said there is definite improvement as many who had taken up arms have started surrendering.

Apprising the members of the situation on various fronts, the prime minister expressed his deep concern over the recent communal riots. He expressed satisfaction that the situation has now been normalized.

On the center-state relations, Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he will like to have the best of cordial relations and does not want to run the state government from the center. The government, he said, will import edible oil to check price rise of this essential commodity.

Describing the economic scenario as not good, the prime minister said the current year's deficite is go up to 14,000 crore rupees as against 7,000 crores projected earlier. He said to tide over the difficult situation, the government will welcome external assistance, but nothing will be done at the cost of the dignity of the country.

Turning to foreign policy, Mr. Chandra Shekhar expressed satisfaction that the world community has appreciated India's stand on various issues.

Premier, Leaders To Form Jammu, Kashmir Policy

BK0201101691 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 2 Jan 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, held discussions with senior leaders from Jammu and Kashmir at his residence last night in a bid to evolve the consensus policy to tackle the situation in the state. Those who took part in the discussions included the former chief minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah; former union minister Dr. Karan Singh; Syed Mir Qasim and MPs [members of parliament] belonging to the Congress-I and the National Conference. The state governor, Mr. Girish Saxena, was also present.

Parties React to Initiative on Punjab

BK0101161991 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] The prime minister has said he does not approve of violence as a means to settle differences among the people and as far as possible isssues should be settled through free and frank discussions. Talking to senior officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and paramilitary forces in New Delhi today, he made it clear that the government is ready to hold negotiations with anyone to find a solution to the Punjab problem, but it has to be within the constitutional framework. He said there is no question of any compromise on national interests. The prime minister, who also holds the home portfolio, was

briefed about the general law and order situation with particular reference to Assam and Punjab and the union territories. The minister of state for home, Mr. Subodh Kant, and the minister of state in the prime minister's office, Mr Kamal Murarka, were present.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] has said that it is not opposed to the talks with the Akali leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, on the Punjab issue and has welcomed the prime minister's stand that there can be no compromise on the unity of the country. In a statement in New Delhi today, the party demanded that the government should consult all political parties before making any commitment.

Four Congress-I leaders from Punbjab have criticized that some political parties and individuals with little or no stake in the state are unnecessarily trying to block the negotiations which they said is a bold initiative taken by the prime minister. In a joint statement they said all sides want a peaceful settlement and restoration of popular government.

Several prominent leaders and intellectuals, while welcoming the beginning of the Punjab talks, said both sides should reach an agreement on a broad framework of modalities, as a settlement of all outstanding issues is likely to take time.

A BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] delegation led by the leader of the opposition, Mr. L. K. Advani, today met the prime minister to convey to him the party's views on the center's talks with the Akali Dal leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann. According to a party press release, the delegation demanded that the basis of negotiations with Mr. Mann should be made clear to the public. The BJP leaders pointed out that the talks should not mean any type of surrender to the secessionist forces.

Lok Sabha Demands Briefing on Punjab Talks

BK0201100591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Members in the Lok Sabha today demanded that the government should come out with a statement on the talks the prime minister had with the Akali Dal leader Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann. Speaking during the zero hour, members belonging to the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], Janata Dal, left parties, and the Congress-I also demanded an immediate discussion on the Punjab situation. Raising the issue, Mr. Madan Lal Khurana, BJP, wanted the memorandum submitted by Mr. Mann to the center to be tabled in the house. Members pointed out that statements recently made by Mr. Mann go against the unity and integrity of the country. They demanded an assurance from the government that any secessionist demand will not be encouraged.

Shekhar Clarifies Talks With Sikh Leader

BK3112131490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] The prime minister has clarified that any solution to the Punjab problem has to be within the constitutional framework. Mr. Chandra Shekhar was addressing a delegation of Kendriya Sri Guru Singh Sabha [a Sikh organization] in New Delhi today. Referring to the criticism by certain political parties about his talks with the Akali leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, the prime minister said there is no basis for the apprehension that he may enter into an agreement with the Sikhs. Mr. Chandra Shekhar made it clear that there can be no compromise on the unity and integrity of the country and any agreement can only be reached within the constitutional framework. The prime minister appealed to the political parties to use their influence so as to bring an end to the killings in Punjab. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said the government is seeking help from political parties, groups, and religious leaders to find a peaceful solution to the Punjab issue.

The Janata Dal says it is not opposed to talks with the militants in Punjab, provided they are held within the framework of the constitution. Talking to newsmen in New Delhi, the party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy said his party is, however, opposed to the Akali leader, Mr. Mann's, suggestion for holding talks under Article 51 of the Constitution. He asked the government to make public the memorandum it had received from Mr. Mann.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] has expressed its disapproval of the manner in which the central government is handling the Punjab problem. The politburo of the party, which met in New Delhi, said any talks with the Akali leader, Mr. Simranjit Singh Mann, without his commitment to India's unity and integrity will be counterproductive.

Iran

Velayati Says Iran Neutral in Event of Gulf War

LD3112174990 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—The foreign minister Monday said that if the parties to the Persian Gulf crisis decide to start a shooting match, the Islamic Republic will not allow them the use of its land, sea or air spaces.

"Iran will remain neutral in case a war breaks out, and will not enter the war in favour of either side," 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Tehran University students.

Velayati thought that chances of a peaceful settlement outweigh the prospects of war and had doubts whether Washington would start an armed conflict.

"The likelihood of a war is less... even if Iraq were to withdraw from half of Kuwaiti territory and keep the strip it has named as part of al-Basrah Province," he added.

However, he said "We do not want to enter this predicament, since we do not consider either of the two sides or their conduct to be righteous. We believe that the crisis should be solved by peaceful means."

Velayati emphasized Iran's prominent place in regional equations, and said "No developments can take place in the region without taking into account Iran's role."

Iran controls the entire northern half of the Persian Gulf including its gateway the Hormuz Strait and parts of the Gulf of Oman while the other seven littoral states combined together make up for the other half.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, said the foreign minister "is the pivot of regional security... and as an influential and powerful country should be included in the regional decision-making."

Velayati rejecting foreign interference in regional affairs, insisted that regional countries should have a clear idea of how to maintain security in the region.

The fact is "Neither Iran or for that matter any other country the United States included, can predict the future, and anyone who claims to have this power, should offer firm reasons," he said.

Velayati also dismissed the idea that Iraq and the U.S. had made a deal over the occupation of Kuwait as "without any rational basis."

However, he added that "One can clearly perceive that both Iraq and Kuwait made blunders and were the victims of self-deception."

Velayati thought that if the Iraqis were sure that a war was imminent, they may withdraw from parts of Kuwait, making the chances of a U.S. attack "much reduced."

In such a development, Velayati drew a picture of Washington and the West still remaining in the region on the pretext that Iraq has not completely pulled out from Kuwait, and of the danger Baghdad's lethal chemical and biological arsenal including missiles poses to regional security.

On the other hand, he said, "If war breaks out, oilfields in Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf Arab states would be the prime target of Iraqi missile and air attacks, and if Israel were to enter the fray, the Arab states who have sent forces to the region, will come under acute pressure, which may all lead to some sort of unity in the Muslim and Arab world against forces aligned with the U.S. It will take an enormous human toll in view of the sophisticated arms put at the disposal of Iraq by both East and West."

Says Peace 'More Likely Than War'

NC0101124291 Paris AFP in English 1231 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] TEHRAN, Jan 1 (AFP)—Peace in the Gulf is more likely than war, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said here, but added that if there was a conflict, Iran would remain neutral.

In remarks to students Monday [31 December] at Tehran university reported in the media here Tuesday, Mr. Velayati said that the likelihood of the outbreak of war was "less probable than that of a peaceful settlement" of the crisis.

He questioned the determination of the United States to begin an armed conflict "even in the event of merely a partial withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait".

He said: "No-one, not even President Bush, knows whether or not there will be war."

He said that in his view "if the Iraqis were sure that an attack was imminent, perhaps they would evacuate part of Kuwait."

In that case "the motives of a U.S. military attack would be lessened, and the side of those who favour political negotiation would be strengthened".

Referring to the deployment of foreign forces in the region, he said: "It is not reasonable to say that the foreigners must not be present in the region in circumstances in which there is no solution for ensuring the security of the region".

Mr. Velayati stressed the need to recognise "the importance of Iran's regional role" and said that "Iran is the pivot of regional security".

He said that in case of war Iran "will remain neutral" and "will favour neither of the two parties".

Iran would not allow either side to use Iranian land, air, or sea space. "We do not consider the conduct of either of the two parties to be justified and we think that the crisis should be settled by peaceful means," he said.

Meanwhile on Tuesday Iran denied reports that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn had suggested to Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani that their two countries form a military alliance.

The Tehran Times newspaper, which is close to the government, on Tuesday quoted a senior official of the Iranian foreign ministry who declined to be named, as saying that the reports, published in the Saudi Arabian Al-Madinah paper were "false and without foundation".

Al-Madinah had said that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani had "totally rejected the Iraqi offer", quoting Egyptian sources.

The Tehran Times quoted the Iranian official as saying that "as the deadline of January 15 approaches, some countries are trying to implicate Iran in the crisis".

Al-Madinah had reported that Mr. Husayn sent a "secret message" to Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressing the "need to find a form of military coordination between the two countries to stand up to American aggression".

The message had been sent through "an Arabian official", the report said, adding that Iraq was "ready to establish long-term military coordination with Iran against the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council".

The newspaper also reported that Mr. Husayn had proposed to Iran "a new delineation of land frontiers between the two countries" and the supply to Tehran of technology enabling Iran to "produce chemical and biological weapons".

Comments on POW's in Iraq

LD3112184590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Mr. Velayati stated in a question and answer session of students of the University of Tehran said this afternoon: In the event of war breaking out in the Persian Gulf region the Islamic Republic of Iran will adopt a neutral stance and will not allow either of the warring parties to use its land, air space, and water against each other.

According to the Islamic Republic News Agency, the foreign minster added: We do not want to enter this crisis since we do not consider as just the two sides and their conduct and, as we have said before, the crisis of the Persian Gulf should be solved by peaceful means.

In connection with the recent meeting of the leaders of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the views of its member countries toward Iran, he said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has control over half of the shores of the Persian Gulf, the Straits of Hormuz, and the Sea of Oman. Hence, no development can take place in the region without the presence of the Islamic Republic; and the GCC has expressed regret for its past behavior toward Iran.

In connection with the exchange of POW's with Iraq and UN Security Council Resolution 598, Mr. Velayati said: Iraq has not yet given an exact and clear reply in connection with the remaining Iranian POW's in Iraq and we have told them that an obscure response to this issue will prevent the unilateral release of Iraqi POW's by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Velayati, in connection with other paragraphs of UN Security Council Resolution 598 and order disputes between Iran and Iraq, said: We call for the full implementation of the Security Council's Resolution 598—notably, the clause on identifying the aggressor; and currently the two countries do not have border problems and Iraq has withdrawn to the borders specified in the 1975 (Algiers) accord.

Leaves for Islamabad

NC0201062491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Velayati this morning left Tehran for Islamabad, Pakistan, at the head of a high-ranking political delegation participating in the Iran-Pakistan-Turkey tripartite meeting.

Officials Announce Forthcoming 'Dawn' Exercise

LD0101120491 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Dawn, massive joint exercises by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] Army and the Islamic Republic's Guards Corps, will begin in the final 10 days of Dey [Iranian month 22 December-20 January] for a period of one month in the provinces of Bakhtaran, Ilam, and Khuzestan.

Mr. Rashid, deputy commander of the information and operations unit of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters, speaking in a press interview this morning, while announcing the above piece of news, said: In this exercise which is aimed at increasing the level of training, raising combat capability, and achieving greater preparedness in the face of any kind of potential threat, the air force of the IRI's army and also the airborne unit of the IRI's ground forces will play support roles. He further remarked: To increase the preparedness of the capable mobilization of the oppressed forces, sections of those forces have been called up and will play an active role in this exercise.

Elsewhere in the interview, the deputy commander of the information and operations unit of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters remarked on the necessity of using the experiences gained during the war period in the implementation of various operations, and added: In the implementation of this exercise, we will be deploying advanced equipment which was manufactured domestically or purchased in the wake of the acceptance of Resolution 598, and we will be using live ammunition. He added: The exercise will be carried out over a 15,000 square kilometers area, and the operations will be staged in the provinces of Bakhtaran, Ilam, and Khuzestan.

Also in this interview, Mr. Chamran, deputy commander of the Cultural and War Propaganda Unit of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters, expounded on the philosophy behind the implementation of military exercises around the world, and said: The defense of the sanctity of Islam constitutes one of our religious and legitimate duties, and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has emphasized the necessity of preparedness in the face of any kind of potential danger at any point in time, to the Armed Forces of the IRI.

Concluding the interview, the deputy commander of the Cultural and War Propaganda Unit of the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters pointed out that the

Dawn exercise will be controlled from and supervised by the "Seal of the Prophets" [Khatam al- Anbiya] garrison, and said: Simultaneous with the implementation of this exercise, the war propaganda headquarters will also, as in the war period, become active and will inform the martyr-nurturing ummah of the details of this exercise.

Defense Formations in 'Strategic Regions' Urged

LD3112190390 Tehran IRNA in English 1823 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—To protect national interests, said a Persian daily today, "the Islamic Republic needs to draw on its powerful military forces, and one effective way would be to demonstrate the capacity of the three branches of the armed forces in a maneuver specifically in the southern parts of Iran."

RESALAT said, "We cannot allow as little as one inch of our soil and of our islands to be transgressed by foreign forces and therefore, it seems we must even now anticipate some defense formation in the strategic regions of the country, that is in Persian Gulf islands, and especially in the Kharg Island. The deployment even of missile systems in those regions may contribute to the national security."

The formation of a deterrent force, it added, may check the hazardous spread of the flames of war into Iran.

"Should the United States be able to defeat or even dismember Iraq still there will be threats to Iran. In either case, Washington may be looking for a handle with which to pound Iran so that it may thereby go ahead toward its cherished security system in the region."

The daily called for mobilising public conscience to face threats, lest it will be taken for granted that the war in the Persian Gulf will not have absolutely any consequences for the Islamic Republic.

It said: "If in the wake of any likely set-back by Iraq the Israeli regime should indulge in expansionist operations and should it send out its forces into Jordan or Lebanon...it seems our military forces can play a special role in warding off the future threats in the region."

Official Reiterates Policy on Gulf

LD0101165291 Tehran IRNA in English 1551 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Oceania Ala-ed-Din Borujerdi reiterated Iran's policy calling for withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the need to observe international laws.

On the probability of the disintegration of Iraq, he said that Iran is for maintaining and safeguarding the territorial integrity of all countries and opposes the disintegration of Iraq.

The deputy foreign minister further added that Iran is against the outbreak of a war in the Persian Gulf and said that the Iranian Armed Forces are ready to defend country's territorial integrity.

Borujerdi, who has recently returned from a tour of the Philippines and Thailand, said that both countries are concerned about the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf which will endanger the lives of their citizens in Saudi Arabia and other regional countries and will shoot up oil prices. Therefore, both countries welcome any move towards peaceful settlement of the crisis, he added.

Editorial Points Out 'Absurdity' of Iraq Moves

LD0101164891 Tehran IRNA in English 1555 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 1, IRNA—An Iranian daily Tuesday commented on the absurdity of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and hoped "sense will prevail in the person of the Iraqi leader and this war will be averted."

An editorial in the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' expressed sympathy with the Iraqi people who, it said, still tired of a long war with Iran, have to fight in a new front if war breaks out.

Ridiculing Baghdad for its talks about popular support for everything it does including the invasion of Kuwait, the daily rejected the Iraqi idea of linking the resolution of the Palestinian issue to its withdrawal from Kuwait. "It looks at best insincere and more of an excuse to legitimize its misdeed."

Moreover, the editorial compared exchange of threats between Baghdad and Washington to what boxers do showing fists and teeth to each other, chortling about what they'll do when they face each other in the ring.

However, it added, "this is one confrontation the whole world hopes will not happen. Let's hope it will stay at the present level of jawboning."

The daily in conclusion warned the officials of the ex-government of Kuwait daring the foreign forces in the Perisan Gulf to begin the war and said, "should the war break out there will no longer be any Kuwait left."

Hardline, Moderate Views on Saudi Ties Discussed

NC2912124090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 22 Dec 90 pp 3, 15

[M. Firuzi commentary: "The Problems of Hajj and Saudi Arabia"]

[Excerpts] Will Iranians be able to participate in the annual Hajj pilgrimage next year after being deprived for the past three consecutive years?

This question, being discussed by many circles in our society, does not seem to have a very clear answer. Iran and Saudi Arabia, as of yet, do not have diplomatic relations and there is no clear answer whether negotiations in this respect will succeed or fail. [passage omitted]

After Saudi police massacred 400 Iranian pilgrims during the 1987 Hajj, the leaders in Riyadh seemed to imagine that with the passage of two or three years, the issue would be forgotten. At that time, the balance of regional power was also in the Saudis' favor.

The Saudis were leading the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council, an organization with a lot of propaganda about its seeming military power; Iraq, at war with Iran, was under Riyadh's virtual command, and in the Arabian Peninsula, perhaps only South Yemen with its minor power, was the only potential opponent of Riyadh.

Today the situation has changed dramatically. If now we accept that the Persian Gulf has three major military powers, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Iraq, the fact would be that the Saudis are the weakest of the three. Then with respect to the diplomacy of "hidden enmity" and the diplomacy of compromise with Islamic countries, (a remnant of the era of King Faysal), Riyadh has apparently no choice except to reach understanding with one of the other two major powers in the region, i.e. Iran or Iraq.

With respect to existing conditions, and the fact that even if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait, Riyadh-Baghdad relations are not likely to normalize for some time in the near future, then Riyadh is forced to come closer to Tehran.

In view of this, radical factions in Tehran believe that in negotiations with Riyadh, no compromise should be shown. It should also be pointed out that this faction also gives credible reasons for not coming close to Riyadh.

Hardliners in Tehran also say that conditions in the region have changed. Following the massacre of pilgrims during the 1987 Hajj, Iran proposed a change in the management of the Hajj pilgrimage. Muslim governments did not directly adopt this proposal, but it is argued that the situation may have changed today.

This year there is a very great possibility that the following countries will boycott the Hajj: Iraq, Yemen, Jordan, even possibly Sudan, Algeria, Libya and with lesser possibility Indonesia.

The question that the hardliners are asking is whether it is right that countries such as Yemen and Jordan should boycott Hajj, while Iranians may be present in the ceremonies and thus give some credibility to the House of Sa'ud dynasty? Moreover, hardliners say,at a time when the hereditary, absolutist monarchical system of the sheikhs is being threatened seriously in the region and the region is on the eve of a real social and political transformation, would not Iran be aiding the survival of such a reactionary regime by re-establishing diplomatic ties with the Saudis? They argue that if our leaders consider it in our interests to re-establish ties with the Saudis, at least Iran, under the current regional conditions, should not back away from its demands. [passage omitted]

In response to the arguments of the hardliners, the moderate faction believes in the one general principle that changes in the Middle East take place very rapidly and nothing in the region is stable. Therefore, in our relations with other governments, at a time when the conditions are suitable and Iran has the upper hand, it should solve its problems with these countries to its advantage.

Concerning Saudi Arabia, moderates say that having diplomatic relations is in the national interests of the country and of the Islamic Revolution for the following reasons:

—Firstly the Iranian Muslim people cannot be deprived forever from performing Hajj ceremonies, which are a compulsory Islamic duty. Instead, sharia dictates that we should make every possible effort to make it possible for Iranians to resume Hajj.

—Secondly, if Iran wants to play a key role in the Persian Gulf then it is necessary to have direct diplomatic relations with all countries in this region, and we cannot just abandon and forget the Saudis.

—Thirdly, it should not be forgotten that both Iran and Saudi Arabia are important pillars of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and both countries derive their main revenues through the sales of oil. It is in the interests of both the countries to have greater coordination and cooperation instead of enmity, which would inevitably spill over into the OPEC forum.

This faction adds that now the Saudis, due to the sensitive conditions of the region, have extended a hand of friendship towards us, we should not reject it, and in our diplomacy we should not have pride.

It is most probably based on the afore-mentioned reasons that Iran, during the past months, has dispatched two of its Foreign Ministry officials (one of them, the ministry's director general) on unannounced visits to Riyadh.

Deputy Views Ties With Saudis, U.S., UK

NC2912114490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Dec 90 pp 1, 11

[TEHRAN TIMES City Desk report]

[Text] Tehran—A leading parliamentarian yesterday said that Iran's ties with the regional countries are going ahead on satisfactory path.

Hojjat-ol-Eslam Mohi'eddin Fazel-Harandi said that our relations with the neighboring countries are based on certain principles which are important to us.

"First," he said, they are neighboring countries and second they are Islamic or their population is Muslim."

Fazel-Harandi said that the factor which we attach importance to our relations with the other countries is their struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

"Syria, and Libya are an example of this principle in which we believe," Fazel-Harandi who comes from Esfahan said. He was elected for the Majles from Harand, Esfahan Province.

He said that we can have relations with all the countries in the world except Israel, South Africa and the United States. "Of course (Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Founder of the Islamic Republic) the late Imam said that if the U.S. bahaves like a human being we can have relations with that country," Fazel-Harandi said, adding, "I don't see any sign that the U.S. is behaving like a human being so at present there is no way to have relations with that country. [no closing quotation mark as published]

Commenting on Saudi Arabia, he said, "because of Hajj we need Saudi Arabia and ties with that country as we want our people to go for Hajj."

"We can't ignore the fact that our people may not be able to perform Hajj and we are really sorry for that," the Majles deputy said.

"Yes, I can say that the Iranians may go to Hajj this year," he said.

Commenting on the present situation in the Persian Gulf which started with the invasion and annexation of Kuwait Fazel-Harandi said, "There is a possibility of war at any time. Nobody can predict definitely on this subject.

"What I can say definitely is that the prestige of the United States is at stake," he said.

"If an adverse situation occurs, we will defend the independence of our country at any cost," Fazel-Harandi, 56, said.

On ties with Britain the parliamentarian said London has fulfilled the terms and condition set by the Majles in March 1989 and diplomatic reltions have been resumed.

On British spy Roger Cooper he said that he committed a crime against the state and is serving his prison term. He said, "No pressure whatever it may be will be accepted by Iran on behalf of Britain in this respect."

Fazel-Harandi has long experience as teacher in Islamic subjects at the theological center of Qom and had a number of students under him who are now serving the Islamic Republic of Iran.

When asked to comment on the President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's recent Friday prayer sermon in which he recommended that the Mut'ah or the short-term marriage should receive its due attention in our society, Fazel-Harandi said, "I fully support Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statement."

"Of course such a contract marriage or short-term marriage should have certain rules and regulations so that nobody should take undue advantage," Hojjat-ol-Eslam Fazel-Harandi said.

Influx of Soviet Jews Warrants 'Unified Stand'

LD3112193990 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 31, IRNA—A Persian daily Monday urged world Muslims to bring to a halt the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine and put Moscow under pressure for its hostile policy towards them.

"The issue warrants a unified stand by world Muslims today, as tomorrow will be too late," the editorial in JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI said.

The paper believed that the widespread propaganda on the Persian Gulf crisis is actually meant to overshadow other regional issues, and provides excellent camouflage for pouring in one million Soviet Jews into the illegal Zionist entity.

Blaming Iraq and the Arab reactionaries for providing a "golden opportunity" to Israel, it thought that a "deceitful game" was underway with the main players putting in their utmost efforts to exploit the Palestinian issue to their own interest.

According to the daily, the present uneasy situation in the Soviet Union and the radical changes in its economic and social structure has also accelerated the Jewish influx.

The "Jewish Agency", the clique which brought in European Jews to usurp control of Muslim Palestine and gradually expanded its illegal existence over the past few decades, feels that Moscow wants concessions from the West, the U.S. in particular in exchange for letting Russian Jews go to Israel.

Moreover the "Jewish Clique" is seriously worried over the impacts of the present volatile situation on the leadership in Moscow, which may halt the Jewish influx any moment, especially in view of the recent resignation of the Soviet foreign minister.

Exactly for this reason, the Jewish influx from the Soviet Union is gathering momentum, "unaware that a vague and uncertain future is awaiting the uninvited migrants to Muslim Palestine," it added.

Warning against Zionist designs to encroach on Jordan, the daily said the Islamic world must act at this sensitive juncture, and must close ranks to stem the tide of the influx of Soviet Jews.

Velayati Pledges Support for Palestine, Islamists

LD2912201890 Tehran IRIB Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, the leader of Lebanon's Islamic Towhid Movement, met today with Mr. Velayati, the foreign minister, and discussed the latest political developments in Lebanon and stressed the need for supporting Islamic movements, especially the Islamic movement of Palestine. In the meeting, Mr. Velayati

declared the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for liberation and Islamic movements and pledged the Islamic Republic of Iran's full support for Palestine's Islamic uprising and for the expansion of that uprising until the complete overthrow of the Zionist regime.

He said the Islamic Republic of Iran will do its utmost in keeping with the guidelines given by the late imam and the guidance of the leader [Khamene'i] on the Palestinian issue.

Musawi, Al-Ghanushi, Shaqaqi Interviewed

NC3012192090 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
18 Dec 90 p 20

[Interviews with Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi, member of the Lebanese Hizballah Leadership Council; Rashid al-Ghanushi, leader of the Islamic Movement of Tunisia; and Fathi Shaqaqi, leader of the Islamic Jihad of Palestine, by KEYHAN correspondents during the 4-6 December Tehran Islamic Conference on Palestine]

[Text] [KEYHAN] What is the stand of the Islamic movements on the new face that world arrogance is showing?

[Al-Ghanushi] In the contemporary world formed after World War II, two superpowers emerged who were in constant rivalry with each other. The Security Council and other international forums were formed to preserve the diktat of these two big powers, especially over the Third World and the deprived.

Now we are witnessing the downfall of one of these two superpowers—the East Bloc.

The East Bloc's weaknesses, manifested in the Soviet Union, can be summed up into ideological shortcomings: bureaucracy and unfavorable economic conditions.

The Muslims who were affected by Islamic awakening in most countries and especially by the jihad of the Afghan people and by the Islamic Revolution of Iran, played an important role in the great earthquake that shook the foundations of communism.

Now that the two superpowers of the East and the West have come to terms, the East is actually leaning toward the West so that it can prevent the emergence of a new international power known as Islam. Therefore, in order for Islam to take its place in the world, it should encounter America and break the largest dam blocking its path. This is why Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, coined the phrase of the great Satan in reference to America. Today the fight against America is a priority for Islam and the Muslims.

[Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi] I want to comment before I answer this question. Before the emergence of Islam and the emergence of what is called Islamic fundamentalism, the refuge of oppressed nations and all those who were fighting against America, Zionism, and capitalism in general was communism.

With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, peace be upon him, it became obvious that the true strength of struggle with arrogance lies in Islam and that Islam can—in every way—be a refuge and base for Islamic countries and Muslim masses. Therefore, two major changes occurred:

The first change was that we heard the sound of the rotten bones of communism and socialism being crushed because Islam revealed their true natures. The second is the emergence of a power called Islam. With the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, liberation movements emerged in many parts of the world. Among these we can name the Islamic resistance in Lebanon, the uprising of the Palestinians, the Islamic movement in Azerbaijan, and the commencement of the Islamic movements in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, Jordan, and other places.

Now we can say there are only two blocs—the bloc of blasphemy and the bloc of Islam.

The bloc of blasphemy includes America, the Soviet Union, Zionism, the West, and all their allies. In front of this, we have the bloc of Islam which comprises all the revolutionary movements.

The Soviet Union and most communist countries grant freedom of action to many of their national and patriotic movements. However, the Islamic movement of Soviet Azerbaijan is severely suppressed, and artillery and machine guns are turned on the Muslims in Afghanistan in a bid to break their resistance. At the same time, the plot of Jewish emigration to Israel is greatly assisted. While America and Zionism's hostility toward Islam is no secret, the plot of creating Great Israel and of an extensive American presence in the Persian Gulf are proof that force of blasphemy is taking up its position against the force of faith and Islam which it is trying to destroy. Therefore, the larger the presence of Western forces in the Persian Gulf becomes, the more the need for unity among the Islamic movements in the region and in the world will grow, the vaster the framework of the struggle between the two powers—blasphemy and Islam—will become, and the higher the flames of the war will grow.

[KEYHAN] What are the roots of the Persian Gulf crisis and what will its consequences be?

[Shaqaqi] The Persian Gulf crisis is an extension of the Iran-Iraq war. In other words, after the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, America felt that it should fight Iran, an ideologically, economically, militarily, and socially independent country. This is why it imposed the [Iran-Iraq] war on it. As for Saddam's motive in attacking Kuwait, different assessments have been given, each one citing a different reason for the attack. However, everyone agrees on America's motives in coming to the Persian Gulf: to impose its supremacy in the region.

The Americans and the Westerners have listed three justifications for their presence in the region:
1. To liberate Kuwait;

2. To form a security system to support Saudi Arabia and countries that are subservient to America;
3. To inflict a blow on Iraq's military strength and to prevent Iraq's military progress in the field of war materiel.

The United States openly admitted to these objectives, but there are also three unspoken objectives: money, oil, and arms.

Money: Kuwait has amassed billions of dollars in foreign banks from the sale of oil. With Iraq's attack on Kuwait, America can freeze the assets as it did with Iran's after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and with the assets of East European countries such as Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Poland, and others after World War II on the pretext that these countries had fallen into the lap of communism. It refuses to unfreeze these assets even now that the cold war has ended.

Oil: Oil is not an ordinary weapon. Whoever has oil can rule the world. Therefore, this is an important incentive to bring the Americans and the West to the region.

Until now, small countries and OPEC members have determined the price of oil. America could not accept having its economic fate determined by these countries. Therefore, it entered the scene in order to seize the power of oil for itself and to move in whatever direction it deems favorable.

Arms: The issue of arms is also very important because the country that sells the most arms becomes the strongest industrially. All of these are linked to the Persian Gulf, and America has come to this region in order to control its politics and economy. But I say that America has stepped into an inferno of the sacred rage and rancor of the Muslims—an inferno which will soon erupt and burn up all the foreign forces.

[Musawi] The Persian Gulf crisis is an important issue. We should watch the situation carefully so that we can adopt a suitable stand on it. The Persian Gulf crisis did not start with Iraq's attack on Kuwait, but with the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran which granted special strength and power to Islamic movements. The issue of the Persian Gulf security is very important in the region. With the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution, the biggest regional police was removed. At that time, the most important Israeli figure—Menachem Begin—who was famous as the old man of Israel, said about the Islamic Revolution: "An earthquake has taken place in the East and will also threaten Israel."

This became reality because Israel has suffered many great defeats since then: its defeat in Lebanon and then its defeat in the Muslim Palestinians' uprising or the intifadah which, God willing, will continue until Israel is eliminated from the face of the earth.

Now we should study America's reactions to the victory of Iran's Islamic Revolution. Imposing the war on Iran by Iraq was America's first reaction, to thus weaken the newly-established Islamic Republic, to prevent the formation of a new power known as Islam, and to block all Islamic movements. During the war a power known as Iraq rose before Iran but America did not want this power to take form. Actually the formation of the Iranian and Iraqi powers was not included in America's programs.

Since the Persian Gulf region is the most sensitive region regarding American and Western interests, America started to think of a way to create a suitable confrontation between these two big powers in the Middle East. But it realized that it had to enter the scene itself and try to increase Israel's strength in the region so that it could work as a pressure against the Islamic forces in the region. Thus, the plot of the immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and from other countries to Israel started so that Israel's demographics would change and the Jews would not be the minority. This is because the population of millions of Muslims living in occupied Palestine was actually a big problem for Israel, America, and the reactionary regional regimes. Of course, America began talks with the Soviet Union on Jewish immigrants during President Reagan's term. Because of his good ties with some Arab countries at that time, Gorbachev did not give his consent.

After the Soviet Union's economic situation began to deteriorate more and more each day, Gorbachev agreed to this immigration in return for some economic conessions from America.

The Persian Gulf crisis is actually two crises and two wars. One is America's war to place the region under its domination and the other is Israel's war to grab regional territories. We believe that America and Israel are now trapped and that they are facing the strength of a billion Muslims—a human sea. How will Israel, with its population of 5 million—or 20 million once the Jewish immigration is completed—be able to face the billion Muslims?

Regardless of how many soldiers and arms the Americans and the West bring to the Persian Gulf, they will be a mere nothing in the sea of combatant and martyr-seeking Muslims of the region. The fate of Israel and of America will be the same fate that Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, predicted: One day Israel would be eliminated from the face of the earth.

[Al-Ghanushi] The main reason America has come to the Persian Gulf is to gain domination over the oil and resources in this region. In dominating this region, America can remove its major rival—the Soviet Union—from international politics and form a center in this region from which it can rule the entire world. Meanwhile, the emergence of Iran as a new power can be a big threat to America. With the arrival of Western and American soldiers in the Persian Gulf region, Iran's Islamic Revolution will be threatened and the propagation of the rays of Islam to light up the darkest corners of ignorance will also be prevented.

Thus we should adopt a suitable stand on the Persian Gulf crisis. I am not trying to justify Iraq's attack on Kuwait. This attack gave America an excuse to come to the region. America would never have deployed so many men and arms merely to end Iraq's occupation of such a small country as Kuwait and to reestablish the Kuwaiti amir and his dynasty. America has come here to preserve its own interests and to gain dominance over the valuable oil resources and thus make Israel's dreams come true. The immigration of the Jews is also among the plans aimed at increasing Israel's population so that Muslims will not be able to resist the Jews. Iraq's attack on Kuwait is actually a smoke screen so that Israel can advance and increase its domination over Islamic countries.

There has never been a time when the forces of blasphemy have been so close to the center of the Muslim world—not even during the Crusades. This shows that the Muslims have reached the utmost degree of weakness and incapability. The reactionary Arab regimes with the most Middle East potential are not able to defend the loftiest of their sanctities, their values, or even their independence.

The Iranian and Iraqi armies are still among the world's strongest armies because they were involved in many years of war and their morale, experience, and war materiel are at a high level.

America could not allow Iraq, with its destructive weapons, to turn the Persian Gulf into its arena. Meanwhile, America could not rely on its representatives in the reactionary governments in the Persian Gulf. Therefore it entered the scene itself. The biggest danger in the area is for Iraq to surrender to America. Iraq's surrender will not be when it withdraws from Kuwait because this was not America's main objective in coming to the Persian Gulf. Iraq will surrender to America if it accepts the West's conditions, and if it agrees for its army to be placed under foreign domination and its progress in the field of arms be prevented. Therefore, the most critical part of the Persian Gulf crisis is Iraq's surrender and secession, and we should strive to prevent Iraq from surrendering to America.

Today the crusaders have come to the region in the form of world arrogance. We should confront these forces in the Persian Gulf. It is not logical to think that America will go to war with Iraq and that once the crisis ends America will leave the area and Iran will be left as the biggest power in the region. If this happens America will have lost its dignity. Therefore, as a first step it wants to force Iraq to surrender so that the Zionists can increase their influence on the West Bank of Jordan and occupy vaster parts. The second step is to inflict blows on the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[KEYHAN] How do you assess the popular movements inside the occupied territories?

[Shaqaqi] Armed nationalist movements started to emerge in occupied Palestine during the mid-1960's. By the end of that decade, they showed the world the combatant and brave face of the Palestinians. Islamic movements had not yet emerged in Palestinian politics, but at the end of the 1970's, Islamic awakening commenced and Islamic groups began to emerge on Palestine's political and military scene.

With the coming of Islamic groups and Islamic awakening, nationalist movements started to lose their luster because they lacked motivated ideology. This was until the intifadah started and, as you know, it was because of the blood shed by the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution that this uprising took place. After the emergence of the intifadah all the nationalist and Islamic groups started to work toward a common goal—against the occupiers. But the point of gravity continues to be the Islamic groups, and the mosques are the only bases of popular attacks and demonstrations. Actually the intifadah rises from the mosques. Islamic movements in Islamic and Arabic countries should rise against Israel strongly and start to deal with realities, not with marginal issues.

Surely if Islam wins in each one of the Islamic countries it will mean the victory of all the forces of Islam.

[KEYHAN] Will the disarming of Lebanon's resistance groups have impact on the national and Islamic struggles in that country?

[Musawi] The fight against the Zionist enemy will continue both in Lebanon and in the Middle East. This fight cannot stop because of two reasons:

1. Israel will not retreat from southern Lebanon. Israel's War Minister Moshe Arens recently said that "Israel will not withdraw from southern Lebanon." In view of this Israeli stand, Syria will not leave either. As a result, Lebanon will be the scene of conflicts because of the Israeli and Syrian presence.

2. The occupation of Palestine by Israel: Even if Lebanon does not have its own problems, the Zionist occupation of Palestine will be a reason for the permanent struggle of revolutionary Muslim and nationalist Lebanese. Therefore, I believe that the withdrawal of the armed groups from Greater Beirut will not have any impact on the nature of the struggle against Israel but will make these struggles more extensive.

[KEYHAN] What is your view of the nature of the Tunisian regime and in what phase is the Islamic Movement of Tunis?

[Al-Ghanushi] Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's rule is an extension of Bourguiba's rule, although some freedom and democracy have been given to the people in order to mislead them. Bourguiba has left Tunis' political scene, but his school of thought still prevails. Bouirbuiga's party is still ruling Tunisia. Ben Ali's government opposes Islamic garb. The Tunisian television channels are in the hands of the Americans, the Westerners, and the socialists, and they are brainwashing the people in any way they can. The Islamic Movement of Tunisia is young. God willing, it will not be extinguished. More

than 60 percent of the university students are supporters of this movement. We believe that despite problems, Muslims will win.

Heavy Industry Minister Returns From Libya

LD2812121190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Dec 90

[Text] Mr. Nezhad-Hoseyniyan, minister of heavy industries, who was in Tripoli at the head of a delegation to participate in the third meeting of the Iran-Libya joint economic and industrial commission, returned to Tehran this morning. His stay in Libya lasted three days; during this period he met and held talks with Libya's ministers in charge of industrial affairs as well as that country's prime minister and leader.

At the end of his visit, our minister of heavy industries, accompanied by the head of Libya's joint economic commission, signed a memorandum of understanding to strengthen the relations between the two governments and to expand cooperation in the fields of economy, commerce, industry, technology, and culture.

According to the Central News Unit report, the third joint commission met in the framework of three committees—one covering the fields of industry, commerce, and economy, another the field of technology, and the third covering the field of culture. It also agreed that cooperation between industrial companies and units of the two countries should be supported.

Parties participating in the meeting also invited Iranian companies to participate in public tenders as well as specific tenders for exports of consumer goods to Libya. They also called for exchange of trading missions between the Chamber of Commerce and Industries of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Union of Chambers of Commerce, Industries, and Agriculture of Libya. Such exchanges would aim at bringing about negotiations for cooperation and an exchange of information.

The same report states that during the third meeting of the joint economic and industrial commission, the Iranian and Libyan economic delegations exchanged views on joint investments, and cooperation in the fields of petroleum, shipping, and technical and vocational training.

Paper Criticizes Greek Policy Toward Muslims

NC2912133090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 18 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Hitches in Ties With Greece"]

[Text] Iran and Greece have a history of friendly relations. Their cultural ties date back to the time when the two countries enjoyed great ancient civilizations. This element has often been assumed to be the bridge between Christian Greece and Islamic Iran. Likewise, the common viewpoints shared by the two countries on various international issues have helped further deepen the bilateral ties between Tehran and Athens.

This week, a three-day international symposium on Orthodox Christianity and Islam was held in the Greek capital with the aim of promoting better understanding between Muslims and Christians. Attended by more than fifty clerics, the Soviet Union and Canada, the conference commenced on Friday, Dec. 14, with the recitation of the Holy Koran and the Holy Bible.

That this symposium aimed at viewing Islam and Christianity with greater wisdom and rationality was held in Greece, is very ironic in light of recent events which reflect the Greek government's attitude towards Islam in general and the Islamic Republic in particular.

1) Despite the fact that the government in Athens had exhibited its willingness to expand ties with the Islamic government in Tehran, Greece has often, in the past, expressed without reservation its antipathy towards Islamic revival. Note this statement by the Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis: "Turkish Islamic orientations and the possibility of becoming a Khomeyni country is a danger for us because we are bordering Europe".

Corroborating Mitsotakis' sentiments, Greece's former Alternate Foreign Minister Theodhoros Pangalos told a Turkish daily that it would be a great danger for Greece "if Turkey became a second Iran". In fact, according to political analysts, one of the main reasons for Athens starting a dialogue with Turkey was based on its fear of rising Islamic currents in the neighboring NATO ally.

2) In February this year, two Muslim leaders received eighteen month prison sentences (former Muslim deputy Sadiq Ahmet and Islamic preacher Ibrahim Sharif) and were deprived of their civil rights for three years "for disturbing peace and causing dissention" Sadiq, a doctor by profession and the first ever Muslim to be elected to the 300-member Greek Parliament, was barred from contesting during the Nov. 1989 elections on grounds that his resignation papers were not in order. He faces two more trials on charges of distributing leaflets claiming that the monorities were being suppressed and their rights denied by the Greek authorities.

Ahmet and Sharif's convictions led to rioting by Muslims in Komotini, northern Greece which injured several people and damaged Muslim properties. There are 130,000 Muslims living in northern Thrace and their plight has been neglected by Athens. The Greek Muslims complain of a lack of sufficient basic facilities like schools and books. They have also charged the authorities of establishing Greek secondary schools in Muslim areas and forcing their children to attend these schools in which Greek is the only language taught. It must be noted here that in Feb. 1988, Iran had protested anti-Islamic references in Greek school text-books and asked the Greek Education and Religious Affairs Minister Andonios Tritsis to discontinue their use.

3) Several Iranian journalists scheduled to attend this week's symposium on Islam and Orthodox Christianity were denied visas by the Greek Embassy in Tehran on the pretext that there was not enough time to check their

credentials. This is a very weak argument since in all kinds of conferences, be it domestic or international, journalists are always accorded priority. This incident almost coincided with the signing of two protocols aimed at expanding economic and cultural ties between Greece and the Islamic Republic. Hence, the Iranian people have been deprived of the opportunity to understand the objective aims/results of the symposium because of the minimum news coverage accorded the meet. A similar incident occurred last year subsequent to the Greek Foreign Ministry's policy of not granting visas to Iranian tourists which almost led to Iran Air's halting flights from Tehran to Athens.

4) Perhaps the most serious development reflecting Greece's bias towards Islam is the case of the five Iranian refugee children who were converted to Christianity without the knowledge of their parents, nor of the Iranian diplomatic corps in Athens. The parents of the children, whose ages range from six to thirteen, have been sentenced to eighteen months imprisonment for illegally entering Greece. Freedom of religion is one of the basic rights of man. The Greek government, by forcibly converting the Iranian children without their parents' consent under the pretext of "making matters easier for them" has committed a grave violation of human rights.

This column does not call for a breach, nor does it aim to create strain in the ties between Athens and Tehran. And most certainly, it does not reflect the views of Iran's Foreign Ministry. We however, cannot leave the facts to remain unmentioned. The events stated above were quite unfortunate because they served to erode the very principle of good neighborly and diplomatic ties. Athens must regulate and reassess some of its policies to resolve its negative attitude regarding Islam and the Muslims.

During the visit of the five-member parliamentary delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Greece, the Greek Deputy Prime Minister and Cultural Minister Tzannis Tzannetakis referred to the spiritual power of human beings, a belief shared by both Islam and Christianity, as very useful in bringing the two peoples closer. Nice words, but it is the Greek government's determination which counts.

We would like to believe that the recently concluded symposium on understanding Islam and Orthodox Christianity was the first step towards this end. It is fervently hoped that the conference would help the Greeks to comprehend the greatness of Islam and the integrity of its followers, thus, creating a better chapter in Tehran-Athens relations.

Paper Stresses Need for Mujahidin Unity

NC2912132390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 17 Dec 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Afghanistan Crisis Lingers On"]

[Text] Life in Afghanistan has never been easy except for the privileged few in the days of the monarchy, and now for the ruling party members, elite and a handful of merchants.

But today, the traditional, hardscrabble existence in this ancient land is compounded by a war without end, a war that has produced neither victor nor vanquished on the battlefield in more than a decade.

Afghanistan's descent into the misery of war and its consequences began in 1973 when Mohammad Daud deposed his cousin, Zahir Shah, while the monarch was out of the country. Five years later in April 1978, Daud was assassinated in a coup by the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, a replica of Moscow's Communist Party.

In Dec. 1979, the Soviets sent troops to Afghanistan to resuce their protegees from internal power struggles and a fight-until-death onslaught by the Afghan Mujahidin guerrillas.

The Soviets withdrew their combat soldiers in Feb. 1988 leaving Afghanistan's so-called President Najibullah's forces to fight alone against the Mujahidin.

Defying the prediction of political analysts, Najibullah has strengthened his grip on power since the last of the Soviet soldiers left the country. As such, the war continus to rage on, leaving the economy in tatters and frustrating any effort to repair the devastation caused by 11 years of fighting.

It has been proved beyond doubt that the key to the Afghanistan problem is neither in the hands of the Soviets nor the Americans, rather it lies in the unity of Afghan Mujahidin. The superpowers seem to have seen the wisdom of putting an end to their involvement in Afghanistan. As a result, according to recent reports, the U.S. and Soviet officials have drafted a declaration that provides them a face-saving exit from Afghanistan and lets the Afghans decide how to end the war.

However, Afghan Mujahidin must not jeopardize their unity by ignoring the rights of any of the resistance groups to play a role in their future government. Undoubtedly the future of Afghanistan does not depend on certain persons or groups, but rather on the Afghan nation which has suffered a great deal and should decide the country's fate. The struggle for power among the rival Afghan groups will not only thwart the 12-year-long resistance but will also pave the way for the ruling regime to strengthen its position. The success in forming Afghanistan's future government depends on an understanding among guerrilla groups far from the domination of the U.S. and its allies. They must unite to form an Islamic government in Kabul and Pakistan-based guerrillas must turn their back to U.S. support.

All Afghan groups must cooperate in their fight for self-determination and isolate ideologies alien to Afghan culture and tradition.

It is no longer a secret that the conspiracies carried out in Afghanistan after Soviet withdrawal are directed against the Muslim people and were aimed at preventing the spread of Islamic values.

Iran has been in the forefront of the countries that support the restoration of national and individual rights of the Afghan people. Iran supports an independent, nonaligned and above all, an Islamic Afghanistan because only Islam can guarantee its territorial integrity and independence.

Pakistan

U.S. 'Blatant Discrimination' Policy Criticized

BK2112120090 Lahore THE NATION in English 21 Dec 90 p 6

[Editorial: "'Accommodation' on Nuclear Issue?"]

[Text] It has been quite a while that someone in Washington remembered the "cooperative effort" and "sharing of vital interests" with Pakistan, albeit the occasion—White House ceremony for accepting the credentials of Pakistan's ambassador—had called for the usual exchange of diplomatic niceties. Nevertheless, President Bush appeared to have sounded a higher note of optimism about getting on with Pak-US relations than signals hitherto emanating from Washington. Referring to the nuclear issue which he called the "foremost of the many challenges on our agenda" the US President said "I sincerely hope that we can achieve an accommodation." Mr Bush also made a reference to "regional nonproliferation" expressing good wishes for the progress of efforts for a "secure and stable South Asia free of nuclear arms" though, pronounced by him as the "ultimate goal" it obviously was not high on his agenda. Apart from the nuclear issue, Pakistan-India relations was another area which seemed to interest the US President. And while welcoming resumption of contacts between the two countries, he reiterated Washington's offer of good offices to help formulate confidence-building measures.

The US President talked about a number of issues ranging from the Gulf crisis to drug trafficking in Pakistan and also reaffirmed his commitment to remain Pakistan's partner in the "causes of democracy, free enterprise and peace". Nonetheless, his pious hopes of an acommodation on the nuclear issue notwithstanding, the Pak-US relations will not take a turn for the better so long as his administration continues to pursue the policy of blatant discrimination against Pakistan. Accommodation, one imagines, implies "give and take" and the Americans are not being asked to give to Pakistan any new concessions. If they have chosen to arbitrarily give a new interpretation to the Pressler Amendment, it is for them to make amends for their misplaced belligerence. In so far as the question of peace and stability in South Asia is concerned, Pakistan is more than willing to live in peace with India, provided the price of normalisation does not entail mortgaging its sovereignty and national honour. Hopefully, Washington will give a higher priority to the creation of a nuclear-free South Asia than browbeating Pakistan for an endeavour vital for its economic progress and prosperity.

Oakley Remarks on Nuclear Issue Welcomed

BK2512090690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Dec 90

[A.B.S. Jaffery commentary]

[Text] With the Gulf crisis now ominously inching toward what might be the flash point too terrifying to contemplate, it's quite clear that some other major issues may be left simmering on the back burner. One such major issue is the new stalemate in relations between Pakistan and the United States over what the Bush administration perceives to be the rather warlike nature of this country's research and development in the field of nuclear activity. This particular issue has so far defied efforts sincerely made by both sides to sort it out to the satisfaction of both parties. One of the several sour side effects of this unresolved question has been the inability of the Bush government to ensure continuance of the contracted United States economic and military assistance to this country. The overall situation, however, is not as desperate as it might seem to less knowledgeable observers of the U.S.- Pakistan relations.

The notably significant and reassuring aspect of this want of full understanding of Pakistan's point of view on the part of the Government of the United States is that both sides have been making concerted endeavors to defuse the situation. During the recent past, moves have been made by Washington to discuss the matter at several levels in addition to the normal diplomatic channels. It cannot be without significant purpose that the United States ambassador in Islamabad should be making direct personal contacts with political figures with meaningful [words indistinct]. In the latest of such high enough level contacts, the United States envoy has struck a note or two which observers in the capital see as breathing in an air of freshness apart from being expressive of perhaps a greater measure of understanding of Pakistan's principled stand on its defense concerns in the peculiarly unpredictable and menacing military environment in the South Asian region. If anything, these deep concerns have grown even more profound with the deteriorating climate in the neighborhood as a result of the developing Gulf crisis.

In a recent meeting with a notable political leader and senator of Pakistan, the United States ambassador is reported to have expressed a measure of appreciation of Pakistan's insistence upon using a regional approach to dwell upon the question of nonproliferation of nuclear arms. Pakistan has maintained from the very beginning that the defense needs and concerns of a country cannot be properly evaluated in a vacuum. Pakistan's defense requirements have to be viewed in the context to the situation as obtaining in the region in which this country is located, and also in the perspective of the historical as well as geopolitical reality of the region. India is a nuclear

power. One (?current) estimate says India has or is capable of putting together without much delay as many as 60 nuclear bombs.

It doesn't need much argument to convince any reasonable person or power that for Pakistan the knowledge that its archrival next door possesses such a formidable nuclear capability cannot but be a matter of most alarm and concern. This being the undeniable fact of Pakistan's situation, any insistence on the part of any genuine friend that this country should volunteer to commit itself to a nuclear impotence and also proclaim it is most extraordinary, that is to put it very mildly. Even so, succeeding governments in Pakistan have gone through the [word indistinct] lengths of promising to renounce all nuclear ambitions if neighboring India was persuaded to be likewise

If current reports of the observations made by the United States ambassador in Islamabad during the past few days are anything to go by, there are some reasons to support the optimism that policy makers in Washington will be very well to see the obvious logic of Pakistan's plainly reasonable point of view on the nuclear issue. One report of the U.S. ambassador's recent comment is particularly welcome. He is reported to have suggested the nuclear question need not impede the development of friendship and cooperation between Washington and Islamabad. As far as Pakistan is concerned, that is exactly what this country has maintained all along. We are more than willing and happy to work out an equitable regional arrangement rendering all nuclear weapons and ambitions to acquire them as needless, irrational, obsolete, and that it is a threat not only to peace but also the prosperity of the region as a whole.

Iran's Velayati Arrives To Discuss Gulf Crisis

BK0201112691 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 2 Jan 91

[Text] The Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, has said Gulf situation will be discussed at the meeting of the foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkey, and Iran being held in Islamabad tomorrow with a view to help resolve the issue peacefully. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival in Islamabad today. Dr. Velayati said Iran had adopted a neutral posture and it was keen to see that the problem was solved peacefully.

The Iranian foreign minister said during his stay he will hold talks with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, and Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on issues of bilateral interest.

Gulf Security Arrangements Proposal Examined

BK2512110590 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 25 Dec 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Defending the Gulf"]

[Text] Pakistan, Iran and Turkey have floated a proposal to the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), in its meeting in Doha, suggesting that they are prepared to shoulder the responsibility of defending the Gulf States following the withdrawal of all foreign forces including the United States troops from the region. The idea of a strategic consensus between Pakistan, Iran and Turkey had originally been mooted by the Chief of the Army Staff of Pakistan, General Mirza Aslam Beg, and then followed up by the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The fact that the members of the GCC have started seriously considering the proposal would indicate that a positive outcome is now only a matter of time. Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, through their action of floating the proposal to the GCC moot, are certainly convinced of its efficacy, while it appears that the members of the GCC have already taken a decision which promises to have far-reaching effects in the implementation of her idea. The States of the Gulf have taken the decision to improve relations with Iran, while there has been no sign of friction with Pakistan and Turkey. The United States of America, too, should have no objection to the defence of the Gulf region devolving, in major part, on the three non-Arab nations of the Muslim Ummah [community], since it has to realise, sooner than later, that it is in a no-win situation in the Gulf. More and more people in the USA are being convinced that President Bush's adventure was not a good idea after all.

The reason why the Pakistan-Iran-Turkey proposal is being so seriously considered by the members of the GCC is not difficult to find. Intra-Arab differences have gone on for so long now without any sign of their being resolved that the tripartite proposal would now appear to be the only way of ensuring a credible defence of the Gulf area without alien interference with the added charm that the Muslim Ummah would exclusively be defending its own without the assistance or collaboration of those who are not of the Faith. If the GCC members can arrive at a consensus, it should only be matter of time before Muslim lands are cleansed of foreign military presence, and the Muslims are left to resolve their disputes among themselves. There has also been talk of the possible involvement of some Arab countries, particularly Egypt and Syria, in the arrangement. However, it is important in this context that the Muslim States to be included in any regional scheme of security not only have no connections whatsoever with the Zionist entity, they should also subscribe fully to the objective of restoring the usurped land of the Palestinians to its rightful owners.

PRC Water Delegation Arrives on Official Visit

BK2212170690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Dec 90

[Text] A six-member Chinese delegation led by the minister for water resources, Yang Zhenhuai, arrived in Islamabad today on a week-long official visit to Pakistan.

Meets With President Khan

BK2612153790 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 Dec 90

[Text] The visiting six-member PRC delegation led by the minister for water resources, Yang Zhenhuai, called

on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They discussed bilateral relations and cooperation in various fields. The president said the possibility of cooperation in the field of hydroelectric power has not been explored so far. He added that he hoped this will be discussed during the PRC delegation's visit.

The PRC minister invited a delegation of Pakistan's Water and Power Development Authority to visit China to identify ways to benefit from each other's experience in fields such as hydroelectric power, resource management, and irrigation.

Delegation Departs

BK2712091090 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Dec 90

[Text] The Chinese minister for water resources, Mr. Yang Zhenhuai, has said that Pakistan and China are to cooperate for exploitation of their vital resources for the mutual benefit of the two countries. Talking to newsmen at Islamabad airport this morning before departure, he said the two countries are expected to sign a protocol in this connection when a Pakistani delegation will visit China next year.

UAE Commerce Minister Arrives With Message

BK2912114990 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 29 Dec 90

[Text] The UAE [United Arab Emirates] commerce minister [title as received], Mr. Sa'id bin Ahmad Ghubash, has said his country will explore new avenues to promote economic relations with Pakistan. He was talking to newsmen on his arrival to Islamabad airport today as the head of a 10-member delegation of his country. Mr. Ghubash said he would discuss with the Pakistani petroleum minister ways to overcome the difficulties faced by this country due to the Gulf crisis. He said he would also deliver a message of the UAE president to the prime minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif. Mr. Ghubash added he will also discuss cooperation in joint ventures with Pakistani authorities in view of recent incentives given to the industrialists.

Talks Held

BK3012082490 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Talks were held in Islamabad yesterday about improving economic relations and establishing an investment company between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates [UAE]. Federal Finance Minister Sartaz Aziz, who led the Pakistani delegation, stressed the need for convening a meeting of the mutual economic commission soon to strengthen the economic relations between the two countries. He apprised the UAE delegation of the bad effects on Pakistan's economy due to the Gulf crisis. Chaudhary Nisar Ali, petroleum and natural resources federal minister, who participated in the talks, said he will visit the UAE soon to review the possibilities of importing oil. Both sides exchanged views on a proposal to be signed about double taxes relaxation. The UAE economic and commerce minister, Shaykh Sa'id bin Ahmad Ghubash, said that his country thinks Pakistan is important and is deeply interested in improving bilateral relations in all important fields.

Trade Agreement Slated

BK3112061390 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] It is expected that an agreement on increasing trade and avoidance of double taxation will be signed in about three months between Pakistan and United Arab Emirates. This was stated in Islamabad yesterday by the UAE economic and commerce minister, Mr. Sa'id bin Ahmad Ghubash, on completion of a two-day visit of Pakistan. He said the meeting of the economic commission will be held to improve economic relations between the two brotherly countries.

Bhutto Accused of Arming Terrorist Network

BK0101125891 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Jan 91

[Text] In Pakistan, the chief minister of the Sindh Province, Mr. Sadiq Ali, has charged the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, of supplying arms and funds from her Karachi residence to various terrorist networks in the province. Speaking to newsmen in Islamabad, he said irrefutable evidence on this would be made public soon.

Sri Lanka

Tamil Liberation Group Declares Cease-Fire

BK3012073890 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0657 GMT 30 Dec 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 30 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] have unilaterally declared a cease-fire with effect from midnight on December 31, 1990. The LTTE will cease all armed hostilities against the Sri Lanka Armed Forces from that time, according to informed sources, states a front page SUNDAY OBSERVER report.

The Government is due to consider its response shortly.

According to informed sources the LTTE has decided to effect a cessation of hostilities with an indefinite timeframe. This is reported to be a gesture of good will to promote peace and to create conditions of normalcy in the north and the east. In case the Government of Sri Lanka fails to reciprocate, the LTTE has indicated that it will continue offensive operations. The LTTE claims that such operations will be "defensive armed action."

The LTTE also maintains that the decision to observe a ceasefire had placed the entire responsibility with the Sri Lanka Government as to whether to pursue peace or to continue to wage a war.

"The LTTE has provided an ideal opportunity to the Sri Lankan Government to demonstrate its real intentions. If the Sri Lankan Government reciprocates positively and the ceasefire is observed by both parties, the LTTE will be prepared to enter peace talks", informed sources added.

According to the LTTE, the Sri Lanka Government is committing a grave crime of genocide against the Tamils under the pretext of war. In particular, the Tamil people of the Eastern Province are suffering enormously, they claim. Thousands of these people are undergoing extreme hardships without any form of relief in the jungle areas and in the refugee camps.

"Under the guise of a war, the Government has also prevented the representatives of the nongovernmental organisations to visit the affected areas", informed sources added. The LTTE further maintains that their decision to observe a cease-fire is motivated by the urgency to reveal the pathetic plight of these people to the world and to solicit immediate relief and rehabilitation.

LTTE sources hope that the Sri Lankan Government will give serious consideration to their declaration of cease-fire.

Tamil Leader Comments

BK3012094790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0924 GMT 30 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 30 (AFP)—The dominant Tamil guerrilla group Sunday announced an indefinte ceasefire in Sri Lanka suspending their renewed separatist campaign which has left some 5,250 people dead since June.

Sathasivam Krishnakumar, alias Kittu, a London-based leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), said the truce would begin from the new year to allow relief work in the island's war-ravaged northeastern regions.

A senior government official said the government was aware of the LTTE offer and it was under consideration.

"People in the Eastern Province in particular are suffering very much this rainy season. Now we urge the non-governmental organisations to start their relief work in the east," Mr. Krishnakumar told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE here by telephone.

He dismissed suggestions they were declaring the truce from a position of weakness saying it was purely out of consideration for civilians in the Eastern region where five more LTTE men died Saturday in continuing fighting.

"We are controlling about 90 per cent of the territory in the North and we are trying to build our strength in the East also," Mr. Krishnakumar said.

He said the ceasefire was unconditional and it was being announced through the media and messages to foreign missions in Colombo and the Geneva-based International Committee of The Red Cross (ICRC.)

Mr. Krishnakumar, who lost a leg in a bomb attack by rival Tamil militants in early 1987 in northern Sri Lanka, said the length of the proposed ceasefire would be determined by the Sri Lankan Government.

"So long as they don't attack us we will observe the ceasefire. The moment they break it, we will hit back," he said.

He said he hoped the truce would also help to change the "current situation" in Sri Lanka's Northeast where security forces have been fighting the LTTE since the group abruptly ended 14 months of peace talks with Colombo on June 11.

At least 5,250 people, including security personnel and civilians, have died since the LTTE resumed its 17-year-old separatist campaign. The group is demanding an independent state for the island's two million Tamil minority.

"We are trying to develop a situation for peace in Sri Lanka. This (truce) could also lead to (fresh) peace talks," he said.

His remarks came a week after Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne ruled out peace talks with the Tigers and vowed to "liquidate the LTTE" to bring peace in the new year.

On Friday a self-appointed Tamil mediator Arulappu Arulpragasam told reporters the LTTE was ready for an internationally-supervised ceasefire and called for greater involvement by Canada, Australia, Britain, Japan and India.

The state-controlled SUNDAY OBSERVER in a front-page lead story reported that the LTTE had given the government an "ideal opportunity" to demonstrate its sincerity in establishing peace in the troubled regions.

"The LTTE has provided an ideal opportunity to the Sri Lankan Government to demonstrate its real intentions.

"If the Sri Lankan Government reciprocates positively and the ceasefire is observed by both parties, the LTTE will be prepared to enter peace talks," the SUNDAY OBSERVER said quoting unnamed "informed" sources.

The paper quoted the LTTE as saying the government was committing a "grave crime of genocide against the Tamils under the pretext of war."

Political observers here said the unusually strong language used by the state-run newspaper was an indication the government was preparing the ground to reciprocate the truce.

"Both sides seem to want a break. If nothing else as a breather for their battle-tired cadres and troops. This could be an ideal chance for both," an observer here said.

Tamils Propose Negotiations

BK3112094690 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English GMT 0918 GMT 31 Dec 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 31 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is willing to return to the negotiating table with the Sri Lanka Government, if the latter was willing to concede the demand for constitution of a separate Tamil army for the security of Tamils and recognise that the north and east have traditionally been the Tamil homeland.

A PTI despatch from London received by LANKAPUVATH states that LTTE Commander Krishnakumar alias Kittu has stated this in an interview to PTI-TV, the first ever by any top LTTE leader after the hostilities broke out between the LTTE and the Sri Lankan Government in July last.

Asked whether the LTTE was wedded inalienably to the demand for separation from Sri Lanka or whether the demand for Eelam was negotiable, Kittu said "It is not possible for anybody to negotiate the safety and security of the Tamils. If this crisis has to be solved, there has to be a separate Tamil army to protect the Tamils".

Government To Study Proposal

BK3112121290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1159 GMT 31 Dec 90

[Text] Colombo, Dec 31 (AFP)—The Sri Lankan Government Monday said it wanted three days to study the "genuiness" of a ceasefire offered by the dominant Tamil guerrilla group in their seccessionist war with security forces.

An official communique here said Colombo was "earnestly examining" the statement Sunday by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) announcing a unilateral ceasefire with effect from the beginning of the new year.

"Whilst the government is totally committed to finding a peaceful solution the government will require at least three days to assess the genuiness of the declared intentions of the LTTE," the Presidential Secretariat communique said.

It said the government had taken note of the fact that "the LTTE has decided to effect the cessation of hostility with an indefinite time frame" from the new year.

The LTTE said the open-ended truce was unconditional and was to allow relief work in the island's strife-torn northeast.

Observers here believe that the tone of the government statement indicated that Colombo would be watching the actions of the LTTE on the ground for three days before making known its response to the Tiger offer.

They said that the government's position was likely to be made known Wednesday when President Ranasinghe Premadasa is to address the nation to mark the second anniversary of his assuming office.

The communique did not say whether security forces would suspend operations against the LTTE during the three days.

The statement was being sent to all registered political parties "for their information and urgent observations if any", it added.

Sri Lankan newspapers meanwhile cautioned Colombo against rushing into accepting the ceasefire, saying it could be a ruse by the LTTE guerrillas to buy time to build up their strength.

The state-run DAILY NEWS and the independent ISLAND, both English-language dailies, referred to 14 months of peace talks Colombo held with the LTTE before June 11 when the guerrillas re-launched their separatist in the predominantly Tamil northeast. [sentence as received]

"History has a tendency to repeat itself," the ISLAND said, while the DAILY NEWS warned that "any deal with an organisation that has repeatedly demonstrated its untrustworthiness cannot be easily possible."

Some 5,250 people have died since June in the northeast where the LTTE has vowed to drive out government troops and establish an independent homeland for the island's two million-strong Tamil minority.

Nationals in Gulf Urged To Return 'Immediately'

BK3012081490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0652 GMT 30 Dec 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 30 Dec (LANKAPUVATH)—Government has asked all Lankans in Middle East to return home immediately in view of the escalation of the Gulf crisis.

Labour and Vocational Training Minister G.M. Premachandra said that the decision to request Lankans numbering over 300,000 to return was taken by President Ranasinghe Premadasa after talks with Labour Ministry and the Foreign Ministry officials.

Sri Lanka mission in Riyadh and Abu Dhabi have already conveyed to the Lankans in those places the government's request. Wide publicity has been given to this request to reach all Lankans in the crisis-hit Gulf.

Asked to comment on this volatile situation and what response the government has had from the Lankans so far, Mr. Premachandra said: "Hardly any. I am perturbed. It seems our appeal to the Lankans has not had any real effect despite their knowing what is going around them."